

ACRC Korea Transparency Newsletter (Dec. 2021)

- ▷ **The ACRC announced the results of the 2021 Integrity Assessment(IA) for public institutions**
 - The Comprehensive Integrity Level has increased four years consecutively since the launch of the new administration, recording 8.27 points this year, similar to last year
- ▷ **「2022 Government Report」 - Changes made with the people, a government fulfilling its responsibilities to the end**
 - Korea of integrity and fairness, a government that guarantees the people's rights and interests
- ▷ **ACRC Chairperson Jeon Hyun-Heui Presented 'Anti-Corruption Policy Direction' at 9th Session of the Conference of the State Parties to the UNCAC**
 - Chairperson Jeon, representing Korea, attended the UNCAC COSP9 online and delivered a keynote speech on the importance of reducing COVID19-induced social disparities and stronger citizen participation in establishing anti-corruption policies
- ▷ **ACRC Chairperson Jeon Hyun-Heui Shared Korea's Anti-Corruption Reform Experiences and Presented Future Integrity Policy Direction at Global Conference**
 - She was invited as a speaker at a global conference hosted by the Palestinian Anti-Corruption Commission

▷ **ACRC to Lead Anti-Corruption Policy Efforts in the International Community in Cooperation with Transparency International(TI)**

- On December 20, ACRC Chairperson and TI CEO held a meeting and agreed to strengthen global cooperation to prevent corruption

▷ **ACRC and UNDP to Continue to Cooperate to Spread Korea's Anti-Corruption Policies to Developing Countries**

- ACRC-UNDP MoU has been extended for two more years

▷ **ACRC to Strengthen Cooperation with Vietnam to Fight Corruption**

- On December 1, ACRC-CCIA Anti-Corruption Cooperation Meeting was held to share each other's anti-corruption policy achievements and to discuss cooperation measures

▷ **ACRC to Share Korea's Anti-corruption Policy Achievements with the World at 'OGP Global Summit 2021'**

- On the 17th, ACRC held anti-corruption breakout sessions which can still be watched at YouTube channel 'OGP Korea'

▷ **Revised draft of the "Act on the Prevention of Corruption and the Establishment and Management of the Anti-corruption and Civil Rights Commission," which significantly enhances confidentiality, protection, and reward of corruption reporters, passed by the National Assembly at the plenary session on Dec. 9th**

- Implementation of the system of non-real name proxy representation for corruption reports

The ACRC announced the results of the 2021 Integrity Assessment for public institutions

- *The Comprehensive Integrity Level has increased four years consecutively since the launch of the new administration, recording 8.27 points this year, similar to last year*
- *From next year, the Integrity Assessment and Anti-corruption Initiative Assessment will be combined to comprehensively assess anti-corruption efforts and achievements*



ACRC Chairperson Jeon Hyun Heui, briefing the 2021 Integrity Assessment(IA)

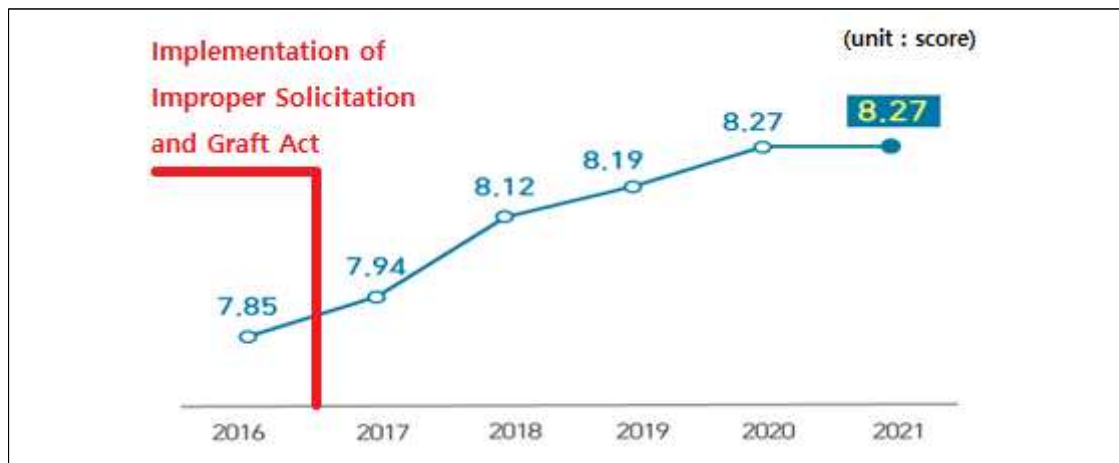
(9th Dec. 2021, ACRC)

The Anti-Corruption and Civil Rights Commission conducted the “2021 Integrity Assessment for public institutions” targeting 592 public institutions* such as central administrative agencies, local governments, education offices, and public-service related organizations from July 2020 to June 2021. As a result, the Comprehensive Integrity Level recorded 8.27 points, maintaining the same level as last year.

* 47 central administrative agencies, 243 local governments (17 metropolitan governments, 226 local district governments), 90 education offices, and 212 public-service related organizations.

The Anti-Corruption and Civil Rights Commission (Chairperson Jeon Hyun-Heui, hereinafter ACRC) announced the “Plan to reorganize the system to assess the integrity level of public institutions” that will be applied starting next year and the result of the “2021 Integrity Assessment for public institutions” at the Central Government Complex on the morning of December 9.

< Integrity Assessment Results (2016~2021) >



The ACRC is going to combine the “Integrity Assessment for public institutions” and “Anti-corruption Initiative Assessment” into the Integrity Assessment to comprehensively assess the anti-corruption efforts and achievements of the public institutions at various levels.

The results of the Integrity Assessment

The ACRC assessed the comprehensive integrity level of public institutions by reflecting the status of corruption cases as well as the results of the survey answered by both citizens who experienced the public duties of public institutions (External Integrity) and public officials of public institutions (Internal Integrity).

This year, the ACRC conducted the survey (by phone or online) on

206,306 respondents (145,006 for External Integrity and 61,300 for Internal Integrity) for four months from August to November.

For the 2021 Integrity Assessment, the Commission modified some assessment contents, reflecting social changes such as the enactment of the Act on the Prevention of Conflict of Interest Related to Duties of Public Servants and meeting the expectations of the people. Based on the modification direction of the Integrity Assessment system announced in July, it reflected the applicable contents as much as possible to lay the foundation for conducting the 2022 comprehensive assessment system.

First of all, it newly added* various assessment contents related to conflict of interest situations of public servants and also added a new assessment item regarding the power abuse of public servants experienced firsthand by citizens.

* Use of confidential or nonpublic information for personal profit, exercise of improper influence by retired public servants, effectiveness of operating the system to prevent conflicts of interest

Also, it expanded the target institutions of the Integrity Assessment to local public corporations related to city, development, facility management, and transportation.

In addition, it strictly reflected the current status of corruption cases of public institutions by increasing the deduction points on the actual conditions of corruption.

Reflecting the ever-increasing expectations of the people on the integrity of public servants, it also deducted points for the status of disciplinary

actions due to passive administration of public servants and the public duty-related sex scandals of heads of public institutions and high-ranking public officials in the same way as corruption cases.

The results of the quantitative evaluation were also reflected in the assessment of the public institutions with many corruption cases that caused a stir in society because a high-ranking official was involved or the members of the institution were systematically involved and that were detected by an external agency due to poor internal audit.

The scores of the External Integrity (8.54, +0.01 point) evaluated by citizens who experienced the service of public institutions and the Internal Integrity (7.57, -0.02 point) evaluated by public servants were similar to the scores of the previous year.

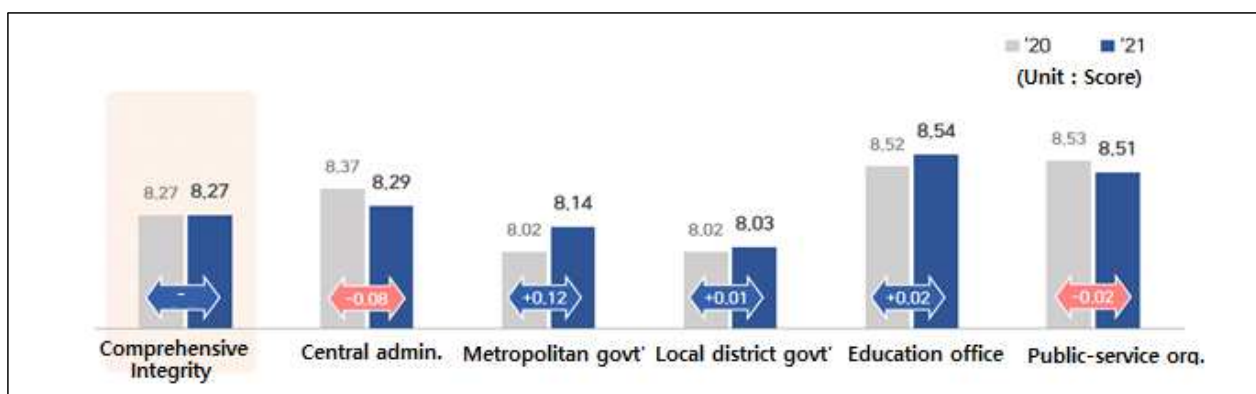
< Comparison of Comprehensive Integrity and Each Sector '20~'21 >



By institution type, the comprehensive integrity level of education offices was the highest (8.54) while local district governments recorded the lowest (8.03).

The score of local governments was lower than that of other types of public institutions as in the previous year, but the score of the metropolitan governments is on the rising trend, jumping the most.

< Comparison of Comprehensive Integrity by type of Institutions '20~'21 >



Plan to reorganize the system to assess the integrity level of public institutions

From 2022, the Integrity Assessment for public institutions will be reorganized as a comprehensive assessment that includes anti-corruption efforts and achievements of public institutions as well as their perception level related to corruption perception and experience, and corruption realities related to each institution's data on corruption cases.

The results of the comprehensive assessment will be released as grades of Comprehensive Integrity. The two existing dual assessment systems, Integrity Assessment and Anti-corruption Initiative Assessment*, will be combined into one, but going beyond a simple integration of two systems, the ACRC has created new measurement & assessment models and indicators to create a synergy effect that induces anti-corruption efforts from public institutions.

* An assessment system to make qualitative and quantitative evaluations on the anti-corruption efforts of public institutions over the period of one year, using assessment indicators reflecting anti-corruption policy directions. It has been conducted since 2002, in addition to the Integrity Assessment.

The number of target institutions will be increased as well. At present, 270 public institutions are subject to both the Integrity Assessment and Anti-corruption Initiative Assessment, while most local district governments and small-scale quasi-government agencies are not subject to the Anti-corruption Initiative Assessment. Therefore, the plan is to include more than 500 public institutions for the new comprehensive assessment, including all local district governments and quasi-government agencies. Moreover, the target institutions will be re-categorized by type, reflecting more of their nature and functions, unlike the previous categorization that focused on the size of the institutions.

Specific assessment models and indicators and the way to calculate grades and results will be completely re-reviewed by reflecting the opinions of public institutions and then re-organized to be fit for the comprehensive assessment.

The assessment items of the integrity perception level, which measures the integrity level of external duties and internal operation through questionnaires, will be reorganized to reflect social changes and the increased expectations of the people, while the assessment of the integrity effort level will be changed from the existing method that only focuses on performance to the new way of assessing the effectiveness, evaluated by internal members, of whether anti-corruption policies and systems are working properly in the field.

Moreover, reflecting the enhanced expectations of the people, the range of deduction factors will be expanded for the assessment of corruption realities related to the status of corruption cases of public institutions. and the proportion of deduction to be reflected in the comprehensive assessment will also be increased.

Future plans

The ACRC created the “Integrity Map of Public Institutions,” reflecting the results of the Integrity Assessment, and released it on its website (www.acrc.go.kr).

The Integrity Map of Public Institutions was created using different colors for the integrity grades on the maps and tables so that people can easily compare the integrity levels of public institutions at a glance.

Also, the target institutions of the Integrity Assessment should disclose the assessment results on their website for more than one month, in accordance with the relevant laws*.

* Article 27(3) of the Act on the Prevention of Corruption and the Establishment and Management of the Anti-corruption and Civil Rights Commission, and Article 29(2) of the enforcement decree of the same act.

Regarding the reorganization of the assessment system, the ACRC will further collect opinions from the concerned agencies and experts and confirm the specific assessment methods, such as target institutions, weights by indicator, and allotment of scores, after establishing the basic plan and implementation plan for the 2022 comprehensive assessment in the first half of 2022.

Chairperson Jeon stated, “Even though there was a case early this year that caused the people to distrust the public sector, taking this opportunity, the government is working hard to push ahead with more active anti-corruption policies on the frontline.”

She also added, “Based on the results of the Integrity Assessment this year and the reorganization of the assessment system next year, the ACRC will make more efforts to raise the trust of the people by promoting more active and effective anti-corruption policies.”

2022 Government Report

「Changes made with the people, a government fulfilling its responsibilities to the end」

*Korea of integrity and fairness, a government that guarantees the
people's rights and interests*

(29th Dec. 2021, ACRC)

< Key tasks for 2022 >

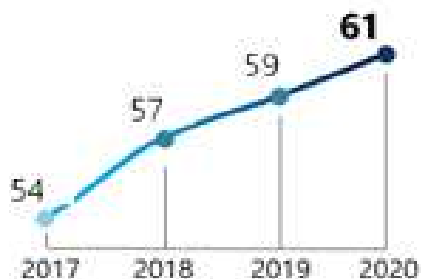
- ◆ To leap forward as an advanced country with integrity by completing reforms for anti-corruption and fairness such as the implementation of the “Act on the Prevention of Conflict of Interest Related to Duties of Public Servants”
- ◆ To actively resolve social conflicts and the people’s grievances as a reliable “Problem solver for the people’s rights and interests”
- ◆ To lead in e-governance by pushing for the legislation of the “e-People Act” and promoting the “People’s Idea Box,” etc.

I. Achievements over the last four and a half years

- ☐ The Anti-Corruption and Civil Rights Commission (Chairperson Hyun-Heui Jeon, hereinafter ACRC) has led the improvement of national integrity through continuous anti-corruption reforms.
- The ACRC has also established a national-wide responsive system against corruption and unfairness, including the creation of the ‘Anti-Corruption Policy Consultation Council for a Fair Society’ and the ‘Public-Private Consultative Council for a Transparent Society,’ and reinforced legal and institutional foundations* to raise the integrity level of overall society.

- * Enactment and implement of the 「Act on Prohibition of False Claims for Public Funds and Recovery of Illicit Profits」(Jan. 2020) and the 「“Act on the Prevention of Conflict of Interest Related to Duties of Public Servants」(to come into effect in May 2022); Revision of the “Act on the Prevention of Corruption and the Establishment and Management of the Anti-corruption and Civil Rights Commission” to complement its functions to ascertain the truth from the reported person regarding a corruption report (July 2021).
- The ACRC significantly expanded the range of protection of public interest reporters by consistently adding relevant laws to the list of laws related to public interest reports (279 laws in 2017 → 471 laws in 2021) and actively protected and rewarded reporters.
- As a result, Korea’s Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI), published by Transparency International(TI), has significantly increased four years consecutively. Korea recorded its all-time high score (61 points) and ranked 33rd in the world in 2020, also ranking 18th out of 114 countries in the Index of Public Integrity (IPI) released by the European Research Centre for Anti-Corruption and State-Building (ERCAS) in 2021.

Korea's Score in CPI by years



Korea's Ranking in IPI by years



- The ACRC has also carried out field-based and people-focused policies to relieve the people's rights and interests.
- It has actively resolved civil complaints and administrative appeal cases caused by unlawful, unjust, and passive administration practices, resulting in the relief of 23,810 cases on the infringement of the people's rights and interests.
- * Recommendations for redress, opinion statements, and settlement and mediation of civil complaints: 11,666 cases; Rulings recognizing an administrative appeal: 12,144 cases (2017 ~ Nov. 2021)
- Furthermore, the Commission has carefully listened to a variety of opinions of citizens collected through e-People and People's Idea Box, government-wide portal systems for communication and participation, and reflected the opinions when making institutional improvements on 261 cases related to fairness and inclusion.

II. ACRC task plans for 2022

- The ACRC's main task plans for 2022 are as follows:

1. Completion of anti-corruption and fair reform

< Innovation in anti-corruption and integrity policies for an advanced country with integrity >

- The 「Act on the Prevention of Conflict of Interest Related to Duties of Public Servants」 will be enforced on May 19, 2022 to prevent the 2 million public servants from seeking improper private interests.

For the smooth implementation of the Act, the ACRC, as the governing body to operate the system, provides on-site training for the public servants who are subject to the Act, actively supports public institutions in their own training by creating and distributing standard teaching plans and instructor's manual, and establishes the foundation for the stable operation of the system.

In addition, the Commission ensures that public institutions designate and operate the position of an official in charge of preventing conflicts of interest so that each institution can be fully prepared before the implementation of the Act. It also supports the institutions to create their own “operational guidelines” reflecting the nature of each institution, by providing the standard operational guidelines for the system of preventing conflicts of interest.

- In order for the government's anti-corruption policies to be carried out in a thorough and continuous manner, the ACRC establishes the “2nd

Five-Year Comprehensive Plan for Anti-Corruption (tentative)” following the Five-Year Comprehensive Plan for Anti-Corruption (2018~2022) established in May 2018.

The ACRC will select key strategies and tasks to make the national integrity level rank stably within the top 30, by choosing tasks that were insufficiently performed or need continued effort after analyzing the existing comprehensive plan and by discovering new tasks based on social changes.

- Starting from 2022, the “Integrity Assessment for Public Institutions” and the “Anti-corruption Initiative Assessment” will be combined as the “Comprehensive Integrity Assessment” for the comprehensive assessment of the perceptions and experiences related to corruption and the anti-corruption efforts and achievements of public institutions.

* ‘Comprehensive Integrity’ Assessment: Integrity Perception Level(Corruption perceived and experienced in the process of handling public duties internally and externally) + Integrity Effort Level(Efforts to establish anti-corruption systems, operation achievements, and effectiveness) (-) Corruption Realities(Status of corruption cases)

- To eradicate power abuse in the public sector, the ACRC includes ‘workplace harassment’ into the concept of power abuse under the 「Code of Conduct for Public Officials」 and complements the specific behavioral standards such as measures to protect victims of power abuse. To guarantee fairness in the private sector, the Commission also revises the Improper Solicitation and Graft Act, which prevents public servants from improper solicitations to the private sector.

- < Establishment and spread of a culture of anti-corruption and integrity across the society >
- The ACRC makes face-to face integrity education for elected and high ranking officials mandatory, and expands specialized training such as integrity leadership courses. To ensure that public servants receive the integrity education, the Commission revises the relevant guidelines to make public institutions publicize their current status and performance regarding integrity education on their website.
 - To enhance the integrity awareness of future generations, the ACRC conducts and analyzes customized surveys for teenagers when conducting the corruption perception survey, while expanding and operating integrity education programs for elementary and middle school curriculums and university curriculums.
 - To enhance the transparency of public corporations, the ACRC creates an ‘ethics and compliance program’ and actively supports their voluntary practice, and launches and operates education courses for ethics and compliance at the Anti-Corruption Training Institute. Based on the performance of the education for public corporations, the Commission expands its educational support to public-service related organizations and private corporations.
 - The ACRC also pushes ahead measures to eradicate improper hiring practices, to spread the culture of fair hiring practice in overall society. It conducts the “5th periodical complete inspection on the actual conditions of hiring practices,” targeting 1,662 public institutions, and revises the relevant laws to lay the foundation for the stable operation of the measures to eradicate improper hiring practices.

< Prompt and impartial response to corruption cases >

- When a corruption case occurs as an important social issue, the ACRC immediately operates its response system to promptly create improvement measures by conducting a joint fact-finding survey with the relevant agencies, etc.
- As an opportunity to submit materials and state opinions is given to the reported person regarding a corruption report, under the revised Act on the Prevention of Corruption and the Establishment and Management of the Anti-corruption and Civil Rights Commission (to be enforced on Feb. 18, 2022) the effectiveness of handling corruption reports will be improved and the reported person's rights to statement and defense will also be guaranteed.
- The ACRC focuses on improving corruption-prone areas*, to reform the corrupt practices of local governments and public institutions.

* (Examples) Private contracts of local government such as to give favor; whether fair hiring standards have been observed; heightened inspection and operation of the reporting period on unfair budget allocation or personnel issues according to improper solicitations after local elections, etc.

- The ACRC pushes ahead to revise the Act on Prohibition of False Claims for Public Funds and Recovery of Illicit Profits to include the fraudulent receipt of public funds for contracts in which large-scale public funds are injected into the scope of the application of the Act.

The Commission analyzes and discloses the amount of fraudulent receipt compared to the payment from the public fund, by institution, law, and

specific project, so that it can intensively inspect and improve the areas prone to public fund leakage.

< Reinforcement of the reporter protection and reward system to meet the expectations of the people >

- The ACRC unifies the different regulations regarding reporter protection and reward depending on laws, based on the 「Protection of Public Interest Reporters Act」, to improve the unity and fairness of the protection and reward standards and to prevent confusion when applying the laws.
- Furthermore, it creates measures to expand the level of rewards so that practical compensation and support can be provided to reporters.
- For cases that are a social issue, the ACRC strengthens the prompt and proactive protection of the reporter by providing a procedure to recognize and publicly announce the reporter even before the ACRC's decision on protective measures and by significantly easing the conditions to temporarily suspend disadvantageous measures against the reporter who is receiving or will receive a disadvantageous measure.
- To enhance the guarantee of confidentiality of reporters, the ACRC newly creates penalty provisions for hunting down the reporter and for damages caused by exposing the identity of the reporter due to a gross mistake.
- Moreover, to promote the system of non-real name proxy representation reporting, the Commission enables the Clean Portal_Corruption

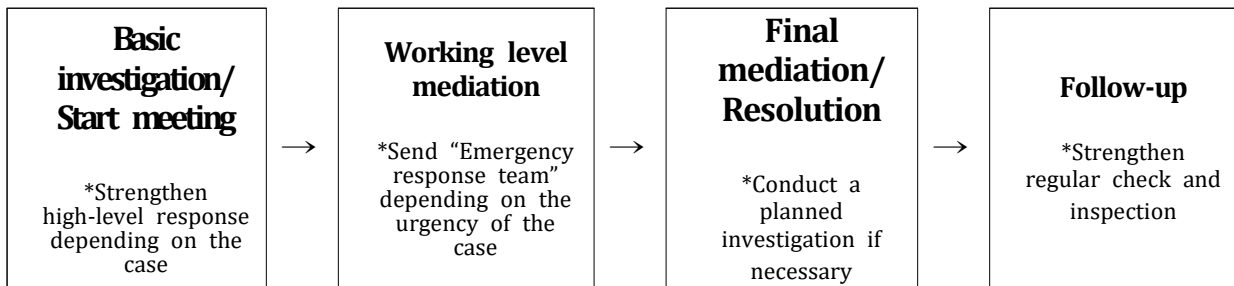
Reporting to receive a non-real name proxy representation reporting, and revises the law to expand the scope of proxy of lawyers to inquiry, investigation, trial, and protection and reward.

2. Prompt and active protection of the people's rights and interests

< Visiting service to resolve the people's grievances for the phased return to normal life >

- The ACRC gives its top priority to supporting the vulnerable classes, small businesses, and micro-enterprises that are in hardship due to COVID-19 and to recovering their business activities. It also expands the operation of the localized and customized “outreach program for complaint-handling” to focus on its visiting service to resolve the people's grievances.
- If there is a large-scale damage to human lives or property, or an urgent grievance issue caused by COVID-19, for example, the Commission sends its “emergency response team” on site and operates a resolution system to provide consultation and immediate support.
- The ACRC selects significant issues with conflicting interests as its key tasks to handle, such as prolonged unresolved conflicts, issues involving multiple agencies, or large-scale collective complaints with an estimated budget of more than 5 billion won, etc., and intensively provides solutions according to the “Process to redress a collective complaint as a social issue.”

<Process to mediate and redress a collective complaint as a social issue >



- The ACRC is fully preparing to enact the 「Act on the Mediation of Collective Complaints」 as soon as possible, which is the legal foundation to redress collective complaints in a more professional, effective, and systematic manner.
- Moreover, to raise the acceptance rate of recommendations for redress and opinion statements on civil complaints, the ACRC reinforces follow-up management in stages, such as site inspections, acceptance cooperation meetings with concerned agencies, and reports and media announcements, etc.

The Commission also provides the legal foundation to increase media announcements on the current status of the acceptance rate of each public institution to minimize the number of cases unaccepted without a particular reason, and to publicize the details of the recommendations and the reason behind unaccepted cases on the website of each institution.

<Establishment of an efficient and specialized complaint-handling system>

- To establish an effective handling system on ever-increasing civil complaints, the ACRC supports local governments to launch a local

grievance commission (Local Ombudsman) and pushes ahead to make it mandatory to establish a Local Ombudsman in a local government over a certain size.

- The Commission also promotes the operation of the ‘ACRC National Council’ to strengthen cooperation between the ACRC and the Local Ombudsmen, and provides more support such as holding seminars for each province and offering prior consulting to reinforce the capability of the Local Ombudsmen to handle complaints.
- Furthermore, the ACRC pushes ahead a project to establish a standard handling system where people can directly file a civil complaint with a Local Ombudsman using e-People and the entire procedure from investigation and deliberation to follow-up management can be digitally processed.
- In addition, the Commission promotes the professional ombudsman system to cover the blind spots in protecting the people’s rights. It pushes ahead to introduce the Investigative Ombudsman which can actively relieve the infringed rights of the people regarding all investigative agencies such as the prosecution, the police, and the Corruption Investigation Office for High-ranking Officials
- Also, in order to improve the relief of infringed human rights and interests in the military, the ACRC reinforces the response system, including the designation and operation of a professional investigator, so that soldiers can file a grievance without apprehension from the start to the end of their military service, and cooperates with the Ministry of Defense to promote the National Defense Ombudsman.

- < Reinforcement of the protection of the people's rights and interests through prompt and fair administrative appeals >
- When handling administrative appeals, the Commission actively makes a ruling on not only unlawful but also 'unjust' dispositions that infringe the people's rights, and actively applies modified decisions or the mediation system to raise the acceptance rate of administrative appeals.
 - The Commission actively operates the administrative appeals system from the perspective of the people, significantly expanding the on-site investigation of evidence and oral hearing to mitigate the appellant's burden of proof. It is also going to consider the introduction of the re-ruling system on the rulings of municipal & provincial administrative appeals commissions to expand the relief of the people's rights.
 - In addition, the ACRC provides the "EASY Administrative Appeals" service which has an "automatic completion function for written appeals" and "customized ruling examples by type" to help appellants filling out a written appeal, so that they can easily file an administrative appeal without the need for a professional such as a lawyer or a licensed administrative agent.
 - The Commission simplifies the handling process that interferes with the quick deliberation and ruling of an administrative appeal. It pushes ahead to revise the law to enable the Commission not to receive a written appeal or to dismiss the appeal without correction if the contents cannot be specified because of slander and abusive language, etc. and to make a ruling without an answer if the written answer by the appellee is delayed.

3. Improvement on policies and institutions based on the people's opinions

< Operation of the government-wide digital platform for the people's participation and communication >

- The ACRC pushes ahead to enact the「 e-People Act (tentative) 」 that stipulates the ACRC's comprehensive operation authority and role and provides the legal foundation of the e-People system, a government-wide digital communication platform, to receive and handle civil complaints in a way that reflects the nature of online complaints and to manage, analyze, and use the data. In this way, the ACRC is planning to lead the digital platform of the government by strengthening the responsibility to manage and operate e-People.
- To improve the convenience of using the service, the Commission gradually expands the users (public institutions) of e-People to public institutions and private universities that are not using the e-People system at present.
- The ACRC collects more opinions on the current affairs of the state and government's main policies through “People's Idea Box,” a representative platform for the people to participate in the policy-making process. To raise the representativeness and reliability of opinion polls on People's Idea Box, the ACRC also promotes the “Citizen Panel” system and expands the use of the poll results.
- For more exhaustive protection of the people's rights, the Commission promotes the “People's application for active administration,” and pushes ahead with the revision of the concerned laws to expand the

scope of the system's application, currently limited to central government agencies and local governments, to include public institutions.

- In order to prevent passive administration, the Commission categorizes the working manners of passive administration and publishes and distributes a passive administration prevention manual that contains frequently occurring instances of passive administration, handling standards and procedures, and leading examples in resolving and improving passive administration.

< Active improvement of policies and institutions based on the people's opinions >

- The ACRC actively supports the carrying out of policies by analyzing the big data on civil complaints in line with the government's management direction such as support for the phased return to normal life and reinforcement of the people's safety.

< Topics of analysis in civil complaints (examples) >

* Civil complaints filed in the last 3 years (Jan. 2019~ Oct. 2021)

Field	Topics of analysis
Phased return to normal life	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Inconvenience regarding local tourism and travel (128,000 cases) ▶ Inconvenience regarding use of multiuse facilities such as gyms and cultural performances(11,500 cases)
Inclusive nation & safety of the people	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Regarding support for single parent&multi-cultural families such as child fostering expenses or housing support (172,000 cases) ▶ Regarding food safety issues such as distribution of adulterated food, marks of origin, and sanitary inspection, etc. (24,000 cases)
Unfair practices & irrationality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Report of false & exaggerated advertisements on online shopping malls, etc.(11,000 cases) ▶ Cases regarding violation of labor laws such as overdue wages(30,000 cases)

- The ACRC increases the use of data on civil complaints by working with various external agencies such as public institutions with big data and research centers. It also expands data disclosure by establishing a “platform for AI-based remote analysis” where citizens can analyze the data themselves for their research and development.
- The Commission also actively facilitates institutional improvements to improve corruption causing factors and civil grievances that newly occur following social change and to reform repetitive structural and chronic corrupt practices.

Fields	Improvement Tasks (examples)
Preemptive response to social changes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Prevent unfair contracts regarding real estate trust; Prevent corrupt practices regarding multiple dwelling units, etc. - Improve the closed operation of smart factory businesses; Prevent corruption in businesses with a large-scale budget
Recovery of people's lives & Social safety net	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Reduce inconveniences for businesses by complementing the agreement system on group standards and strengthening deliberation on conflict resolution, etc. - Improve the disabled and the elderly's convenience in using kiosks; Improve the policy to support school uniform expenses
Eradication of structural & chronic corrupt practices	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Prevent the act of receiving money from nominal donations & sponsorships; Improve the improper use of resorts owned by public institutions - Improve the standards and subjects to medical expense reduction/exemption for national and public hospitals; Create the standards to designate a primary bank for public institutions

< Operation of a convenient one-stop service close to the people for consultation and resolution of complaints >

- To improve the quality of the consultation service, the ACRC analyzes the consultation trends of a normal year and sets a focused period for consultation of specific events, such as various tax payment periods, government's subsidy payment periods, enactment dates of the laws closely related to the people's lives, etc., and enhances the training of consultants.

- For complex complaints involving multiple agencies, the Commission actively uses the Complaint Consultation Council to promote the mediation of the complaints. In particular, it actively finds and resolves issues to submit to the Council, cooperating with the civil service centers of local governments and public institutions.
- The ACRC is fully preparing to establish the “Intelligent Integrated Call Center” to provide 24/7/365 consultation service by introducing the AI automatic consultation function and integrating 96 government call centers by 2023.
- Chairperson Jeon Hyun-Heui of the ACRC stated, “The year 2022 is the time for the Commission to substantially push ahead with its policies for anti-corruption and integrity and the protection of the people’s rights.” She also added, “The ACRC is going to make the best effort to lead the nation to leap forward as a truly advanced country with integrity by completing the government reforms for anti-corruption and fairness, and to work as a problem solver for the people’s rights, standing on the side of the people, by actively resolving the people’s grievances and social conflicts.”

ACRC Chairperson Jeon Hyun-Heui Presented ‘Anti-Corruption Policy Direction’ at 9th Session of the Conference of the State Parties to the UNCAC

- Chairperson Jeon, representing Korea, attended the UNCAC COSP9 online and delivered a keynote speech on the importance of reducing COVID19-induced social disparities and stronger citizen participation in establishing anti-corruption policies



ACRC Chairperson Jeon Hyun Heui, delivering a keynote speech at the UNCAC 9th session
(15th Dec. 2021, ACRC)

Chairperson Jeon Hyun-Heui of the Anti-Corruption and Civil Rights Commission (ACRC) virtually attended the 9th session of the Conference of the State Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC) held in Egypt on the afternoon of December 13 (morning of December 14, Korea time) and delivered a keynote speech on the need for reducing social disparities widened by COVID 19 and the importance of strengthening citizen participation in the establishment of anti-corruption policies.

Since its first session in 2006, the Conference of the State Parties to UNCAC has been held biannually, serving as an arena for discussion on stronger international cooperation to prevent and tackle corruption.

<Over view of UNCAC >

- Official name: United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC)
- Purpose: To improve quality of life for people around the world by combating corruption that undermines democracy and ethical values and threatens sustainable development and rule of law.
- State parties: 188 countries
- Korea Signature date: Dec. 10, 2003. Entry into force: Dec. 14, 2005.
- Date of passage of the Ratification by National Assembly: February 29, 2008

South Korea has been a state party to the UNCAC since February 2008 when the National Assembly passed the ratification of the convention. To fully implement the convention, the country has made active efforts in and outside the country.

The 9th Conference of the State Parties (COSP) to the UNCAC was held in hybrid format due to COVID 19.

Representing the Korean government, ACRC Chairperson Jeon Hyun-Heui attended the UNCAC COSP9 online and delivered a speech on Korea's anti-corruption reform experiences and future anti-corruption policy direction.

Chairperson Jeon emphasized the need for removing social disparities caused by COVID 19 and the importance of citizen participation in establishing anti-corruption policies.

The UNCAC COSP9 to be held until December 17 will discuss corruption prevention, technical assistance for corruption prevention, and asset recovery. The conference will adopt several declarations including Sharm

el-Sheikh Declaration* that concerns strengthening international cooperation in the prevention of and fight against corruption during times of emergencies and crisis response and recovery.

- * It was named after Sharm el-Sheik in Egypt, the host city of the UNCAC COSP9. The declaration was tabled by Egypt and co-sponsored by Lebanon, the State of Palestine and the United Arab Emirates. It will be adopted on the 17th.

ACRC Chairperson Jeon Hyun-Heui said, “With the Act on Prohibition of the Improper Solicitation and Graft Act and the Act on the Prevention of Conflict of Interest Related to Duties of Public Servants, Korea has completed legislative preparation for prevention of corruption and fairness violation. And with Public-Private Council for Transparent Society, Korea has been enabling citizens to actively participate in anti-corruption policy procedure.” She added, “I expect that Korea’s such institutional foundation for anti-corruption could serve as a stepping stone for tackling corruption in the future.”

ACRC Chairperson Jeon Hyun-Heui Shared Korea's Anti-Corruption Reform Experiences and Presented Future Integrity Policy Direction at Global Conference

*- She was invited as a speaker at a global conference hosted by
the Palestinian Anti-Corruption Commission*

(8th Dec. 2021, ACRC)

The Anti-Corruption and Civil Rights Commission (ACRC, Chairperson Jeon Hyun-Heui) participated as a speaker in a an online global conference hosted by the Palestinian Anti-Corruption Commission (PACC) at 8 pm of December 7 (1 pm of December 7, Palestin time) and explained Korea's experience of anti-corruption reform and presented to the international society integrity-oriented policy direction.

The conference, titled “Measures to prevent corruption in the public sector”, was attended by Palestinian Authority government President Majmoud Abbas and heads of anti-corruption commission of Palestine, Italy and Jordan, as well as anti-corruption figures at international organizations such as OECD, UNESCO, and UNDP. They had a discussion on measure to prevent corruption in the world.

Her speech was made at the request of the organization hosting the conference, to share Korea's exemplary experiences and knowhow on anti-corruption and integrity.

Chairperson Jeon Hyun-Heui of the ACRC, in her speech delivered online, explained that Korea, aiming to go beyond ex post detection and punishment to focus on effective prevention of corruption, laid an

institutional foundation for anti-corruption from multiple angles, which have been proven effective.

She said that with Integrity Assessment conducted in accordance with the Corruption Prevention Act enacted in 2002, an objective measurement of corruption level of public organization has been made in Korea, enhancing integrity level of each public agency. She also explained that Public Interest Protection Act enforced in 2011 has made a meaningful achievement of containing acts of infringing on public interest in the private sector as well as in the public sector.

She also said that Improper Solicitation and Graft Act enforced in 2016 has helped remove the practice of improper solicitation and graft caused by nepotism and favoritism. She also mentioned that the Act on Prevention of Conflict of Interest for Public Servants, which was enacted in 2021 and will be enforced in May 2022, is expected to institutionalize fairness in public servant's work and decision-making.

Lastly, she emphasized that anti-corruption policies in the future should focus on practicing integrity in practice so that they could narrow the COVID 19-caused economic gap across the society in real term and meet citizens' expectation towards fairness.

Chairperson Jeon Hyun-Heui said, "I hope Korea's anti-corruption reform experiences and achievements could help countries around the world in establishing corruption prevention policies. And the ACRC will expand anti-corruption policy exchanges with countries around the world to contribute to the global fight against corruption."

ACRC to Lead Anti-Corruption Policy Efforts in the International Community in Cooperation with Transparency International

- On December 20, ACRC Chairperson and TI CEO held a meeting and agreed to strengthen global cooperation to prevent corruption



ACRC Chairperson Jeon Hyun Heui and TI CEO Daniel Eriksson having a virtual meeting
(21st Dec. 2021, ACRC)

The Anti-Corruption and Civil Rights Commission is carrying out a multitude of anti-corruption efforts in the global arena by such as communicating with the Transparency International.

Chairperson Jeon Hyun-Heui of the Anti-Corruption and Civil Rights Commission (ACRC, Chairperson Jeon Hyun-Heui) had a virtual meeting with the head of Transparency International (TI)*, CEO Daniel Eriksson on December 20, from 6:00 pm (10 am, Germany) to 6:50 pm. The meeting was held as a follow-up measure of the working-level meeting between the two organizations held on November 8 to 11.

* Transparency International (TI) is a non-profit organization founded in 1993 and headquartered in Berlin, Germany. It publishes Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI) of 180 countries every year and carries out other various anti-corruption efforts.

The importance of international communication and cooperation on anti-corruption policies and activities are growing, as indicated by the remarks of President Moon Jae-in at the Summit for Democracy held on December 9, which said “Corruption is the biggest enemy to democracy.

Korea will share with the international community its anti-corruption policy achievements such as the Improper Solicitation and Graft Act, the Act on the Prevention of Conflict of Interest Related to Duties of Public Servants, and the Act on the Protection of Public Interest Reporters. We will also share Korea’s electronic government system with developing countries.”

At the video conference with the TI, ACRC Chairperson Jeon Hyun-Heui said, “The international community contributed a lot to Korea’s economic growth and democracy development. Korea intends to actively join international anti-corruption policy efforts.”

“As part of such efforts, to share with many countries around the world Korea’s experience and expertise gained in the procedure of anti-corruption policy decision-making, the ACRC will do people-to-people exchange with the TI and will send the organization Korea’s anti-corruption information on a regular basis”, she said.

CEO Daniel Eriksson of the ACRC said, “The TI focuses on fighting corruption and developing democracy in the Asian Pacific region. I think that experience and achievements of Korea that made a meaningful advancement in the region are especially important as best practices in the region. In this regard, cooperation between the ACRC and the TI will be a significantly important foundation for resolving global corruption problems.”

ACRC and UNDP to Continue to Cooperate to Spread Korea's Anti-Corruption Policies to Developing Countries

ACRC-UNDP MOU has been extended for two more years

(3rd Dec. 2021, ACRC)

On December 1, the Anti-Corruption and Civil Rights Commission (ACRC, Chairperson Jeon Hyun-Heui), signed an extension of the Memorandum of Understanding with the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) for two years to December, 2023 for sharing of Korea's anti-corruption policies with developing countries. The ACRC-UNDP MOU was first signed in December, 2015.

An Sung Uk, Vice Chairperson and Secretary General of the ACRC and Anne Juepner, Acting Director of the UNDP Seoul Policy Center had met on the 23rd of last month and discussed the extension of the ACRC-UNDP MOU on anti-corruption conversed about new areas for cooperation.

At the meeting, they reaffirmed that the two agencies' anti-corruption policy sharing projects of the past six years were excellent at maximizing the strength of the both agencies, with the ACRC providing anti-corruption policy information proven effective and the UNDP delivering the information with standardized manual through its global networks to developing countries.

They agreed to share Korea's knowhow on digital anti-corruption policy as a new area for cooperation. By doing so, they would provide assistances to developing countries in utilizing digital technologies in the anti-corruption era.

To date, with the policy sharing projects, the two agencies had introduced Korea's Anti-Corruption Initiative Assessment and Corruption Risk Assessment to countries around the world.

Based on the success of their existing cooperative model, the ACRC and UNDP Seoul Policy Center have now chosen Clean Portal, which is ACRC's digital anti-corruption platform, as a new cooperative project. They agreed, in principle, to start the project of sharing Clean Portal with developing countries from next year.

Clean Portal (www.clean.go.kr) is an online platform for corruption and public interest reporting operated by ACRC. With the online reporting system, citizens can easily report violation of Improper Solicitation and Graft Act, acts of corruption, and acts infringing on public interest. On the portal, they can also check their consultation related to their report and the status of their report. The digital corruption and public interest violation reporting system allows for proxy reporting without disclosure of reporter's real name, guaranteeing watertight protection for reporters.

An Sung Uk, Vice Chairperson and Secretary General of the ACRC said, "I am confident that with the extension of the MoU, Clean Portal, Korea's excellent anti-corruption digital platform, could be a practical help for developing countries in enhancing their integrity level".



ACRC to Strengthen Cooperation with Vietnam to Fight Corruption

On December 1, ACRC-CCIA Anti-Corruption Cooperation Meeting was held to share each other's anti-corruption policy achievements and to discuss cooperation measures



ACRC Vice Chairperson and Secretary General An Sung Uk having Virtual Conference
(1st Dec. 2021, ACRC)

Korea and Vietnam shared their anti-corruption policies with each other and strengthen cooperation to enhance integrity level.

The Anti-Corruption and Civil Rights Commission (ACRC, Chairperson Jeon Hyun-Heui) and the Central Commission for Internal Affairs (CCIA, Chairperson Phan Dinh Trac) of Vietnam held a virtual meeting on anti-corruption cooperation on the afternoon of December 1 to share each other's anti-corruption efforts and achievements and discuss future cooperation plan.

The CCIA, Vietnam's anti-corruption agency that oversees the country's anti-corruption policies, has continued to share its anti-corruption policy

achievements and future plans with the ACRC based on the ACRC-CCIA MoU on Anti-Corruption Cooperation extended in October last year.

The virtual meeting on December 1 was presided over by Vice Chairperson and Secretary General An Sung Uk of the ACRC. The meeting introduces Korea's continuous efforts to build a legislative foundation for anti-corruption such as the enforcement of Public Fund Recovery Act and the enactment of Conflict of Interest Prevention Act, as well as its anti-corruption achievements such as Clean Portal, Korea's corruption/public interest online reporting system which has been recognized as a best practice in the international community such as at the G20 Summit meeting. Measures for future cooperation between the two organizations are also discussed at the meeting.

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

Meanwhile, from the Vietnamese's side, over 20 officials from the CCIA and the Government Inspectorate of Vietnam including Standing Vice Chairman Vo Van Dung of the CCIA participated in the meeting online and make a presentation on the country's anti-corruption strategy 2020 and implementation result of the UN Convention Against Corruption.

ACRC Vice Chairperson and Secretary General An Sung Uk said, "I expect that this cooperation meeting could be an opportunity for our two organizations to share each other's anti-corruption policy efforts and achievements and to further strengthen our anti-corruption policies and capability."

ACRC to Share Korea's Anti-corruption Policy Achievements with the World at 'OGP Global Summit 2021'

On the 17th (Fri.), ACRC held anti-corruption breakout sessions which can be watched at YouTube channel 'OGP Korea'



Republic of Korea President Moon Jae In giving a welcome speech
at 2021 OGP Global Summit

(15th Dec. 2021, ACRC)

The Anti-Corruption and Civil Rights Commission (Chairperson Jeon Hyun-Heui, ACRC) held breakout sessions at the Open Government Partnership Global Summit 2021 to share with countries around the world Korea's anti-corruption policy achievements and future direction on December 17, the last day of the summit.

<Anti-Corruption Breakout Session>

First session (Dec 17, Fri. at 10:30~11:50) The achievements and Lessons of Korea's Anti-Corruption Policy

Second session (Dec. 17, Fri. at 13:00~14:20) Implementation of Anti-Corruption and Integrity Policies through the Establishment of Public-Private Partnership

The Open Government Partnership (OGP) is a global public-private partnership which was established to promote government transparency, anti-corruption, citizen participation, cooperation between government and civil society organizations.

The Korean government, as chair of the 11th OGP, held OGP Global Summit 2021 at COEX, Seoul, for three days from December 15 to 17 under the theme of civil space and public participation, tackling corruption, and promoting inclusive digital innovation.

The ACRC hosted a breakout session on the morning of the 17th under the name of “The Achievements and Lessons of Korea’s Anti-Corruption Policy.

The current government set anti-corruption as the priority in running the state and has carried out anti-corruption policies in a comprehensive manner with the ACRC taking the helm by enacting the Act on the Prevention of Conflict of Interest Related to Duties of Public Servants and the Act on the Prohibition of False Claims for Public Funds and Recovery of Illicit Profits and tackling employment irregularities in public organizations. The government’s achievements so far and measures for improvement will be discussed at the breakout session.

In the afternoon of the same day, the ACRC organized another breakout session under the theme of “Implementation of Anti-corruption and Integrity Policies through the Establishment of Public-Private Partnership.” The session will talk about achievements in the operation of the Public-Private Council for Transparent Society which consists of representatives of civil society organizations, the media, and the academia. The session will also share ideas on the role and prospect of the public-private governance in anti-corruption policy implementation.

ACRC Chairperson Jeon Hyun-Heui, in her welcoming speech at Anti-Corruption Plenary Session on December 16, explained the Korean government's anti-corruption framework and efforts and achievements of the government's action to enhance integrity in the public and private sector. She said, "I hope that OGP Global Submit 2021 will be an opportunity for the world to share insight and wisdom and settle a culture of integrity throughout the world.

To prevent the spread of COVID 19, the OGP Global Summit 2021 allowed for online participation and discussions were accessible in real time at OGP website and YouTube channel for anyone in the world..

※ OGP website: <http://ogpsummit.org>,
OGP Korea 2021 YouTube channel: search for "OGP Korea" at www.youtube.com

Revised draft of the “Act on the Prevention of Corruption and the Establishment and Management of the Anti-corruption and Civil Rights Commission,” which significantly enhances confidentiality, protection, and reward of corruption reporters, passed by the National Assembly at the plenary session on Dec. 9th

- *Implementation of the system of non-real name proxy representation for corruption reports*
- *Expansion of the range of culpability mitigation and payment of relief money*

It is going to be possible for people to make a corruption report by proxy through an attorney-at-law without a real name. The ranges of culpability mitigation and payment of relief money are also going to be expanded for corruption reporters.

The Anti-Corruption and Civil Rights Commission (Chairperson Hyun-Heui Jeon, hereinafter ACRC) revealed that on December 9, the National Assembly at the plenary session passed the revised draft of the “Act on the Prevention of Corruption and the Establishment and Management of the Anti-corruption and Civil Rights Commission” which significantly enhances confidentiality, protection, and reward of corruption reporters.

The revised draft introduced a system for non-real name proxy representation reporting, which enables a corruption reporter to make a report with the name of an attorney-at-law and not disclosing the reporter’s personal information, to nurture an environment where people

can freely make a corruption report without fear. Currently, it is possible for a public interest report to be made by non-real name proxy representation through an attorney-at-law.

In addition, the draft Act expanded the range of culpability mitigation for corruption reporters so that if a criminal act of a reporter is found in connection with the report, not only the criminal punishment and disciplinary action but also the administrative disposition of the person may be mitigated. The Act also lays the legal ground for the ACRC to require the concerned agency to mitigate the culpability of the reporter.

In addition, at present, the relief money* is provided to a reporter only for the expenses of the lawsuit (lawyer expense, etc.) regarding the reinstatement from discharge, etc. due to the report. However, the revised act has expanded the range of payment to the expenses of all lawsuits such as defamation or false accusation due to the report.

* Money to be provided to a reporter to compensate for economic losses if the reporter suffers economic losses or damages such as expenses incurred in lawsuits, transference or treatment, or wage loss due to the report

In addition, the Act has made it mandatory for public institutions to give a person dismissed for corruption prior notice of the system to restrict re-employment, to prevent the person dismissed for corruption from being employed by a restricted institution without knowing that the institution is subject to the restriction on employment of a person dismissed for corruption.

The system to restrict re-employment bans any public official who mandatorily retires or is dismissed or discharged from office or a former public official who is sentenced a fine of more than 3 million won for committing an act of corruption in connection with his or her duties while in office, from being employed by public institutions or for-profit private enterprises related to the public duties of the institution to which he or she belonged, for five years from the date he or she retires.

The Act has also laid the legal ground for the ACRC to request an inspection to other supervisory agencies such as the concerned administrative agency in addition to the Board of Audit and Inspection, if in dealing with a complaint the ACRC finds out that an employee of the concerned administrative agency conducted his or her duty in an unlawful or unjust manner intentionally or by gross mistake.

In the meantime, the National Assembly also passed the revised draft of the Improper Solicitation and Graft Act that increases the range of the allowed amount of money up to twofold for gifts of agricultural and livestock products during the holiday seasons of the Lunar New Year and Chuseok.

Chairperson Jeon stated, “As the revised draft has passed the plenary session of the National Assembly, it will contribute to creating an environment where people can make a corruption report without fear, since the Act will provide more enhanced support and protection to corruption reporters in terms of confidentiality, mitigation of culpability, and relief money, etc.” She also added, “The ACRC will push ahead subsequent legislation measures as soon as possible, including the revision of the enforcement decree, to ensure the protection of corruption reporters.”