

ACRC Korea Transparency Newsletter (Sep. 2022)

- ▷ State Senator and Representative of Georgia Visited the ACRC and Expressed Appreciation for **“Resolving Grievance Complaints from Korean American Veterans”**
- ▷ ACRC, Sharing **“the operation of e-People** and Best Practices for Addressing Grievance Complaints” **with Indonesia**
- ▷ ACRC Promotes the **“Supports for the Implementation and Operation of Clean Portal**, a Corruption and Public Interest Reporting System, **for Developing Countries”**
- ▷ ACRC, **Sharing** the Development of **Anti-corruption System in Korea with the International Community**
- ▷ ACRC Directly **Communicates with the 8th Popularly Elected Local Government** Regarding Future Policy Direction for Integrity and Fairness

State Senator and Representative of Georgia Visited the ACRC and Expressed Appreciation for “Resolving Grievance Complaints from Korean American Veterans”

State Senator and Representative of Georgia who passed the bill that honors Korean American veterans met Chairperson Jeon Hyun-Heui and delivered House Resolution

(October 4 2022, ACRC)

State Senator and Representative of Georgia visited the Anti-Corruption and Civil Rights Commission (ACRC) and expressed appreciation for the ACRC resolving grievance complaints from Korean American veterans in Georgia.

On September 30, Chairperson of the ACRC Jeon Hyun-Heui met State Senator Eddie Harbison and State Representative William Hitchens Jr at the Government Complex Seoul and received the House Resolution of appreciation.

The two state legislators played the leading role in the proposal and passage of the bill to honor foreign soldiers as American veterans in Georgia for the first time in US history. Still, in other states of the US, veterans subject to being honored are those only who participated in the war as the US armed forces.

In June 2020 and March 2021 in Georgia, bills (HB 819 and SB 225) to extend subjects eligible for driver’s licenses and license plates engraved with a *veteran* mark and American flag to “persons who

participated in the war with the US as Allied Armed Forces of the United States” from “persons who participated in the war as American forces” were passed.

Accordingly, for the first time in US history, Korean Americans have become honored and eligible for the benefits for veterans in the US, such as discounts at supermarkets and preferential interest rates, but were faced with an unexpected problem.

In order to obtain a veteran driver’s license, they needed proof of participation guaranteed by the Korean government. However, they could not obtain an English Certificate of Military Service on the internet if they lost their Korean citizenship. In principle, only the person oneself or his or her lineal ascendant and descendant could obtain the certificate but not by proxy.

Moreover, it was difficult for nearly 90-year-old Korean American veterans who left their homeland more than 40 years ago to find relatives in Korea who could help them, and even if they turned to the Consulate, they had to go through a complicated process involving several relevant agencies.

After several attempts, Korean American veterans turned to the ACRC for help with the support of a volunteer, and the ACRC investigated the detailed information about the military service of the petitioners living in the US and their participation in the war.

However, records of their military service were inaccurate, or some parts were missing since they were handwritten in the past, and the

information that the petitioners remember was not precise because it has been a long time since the war.

The ACRC found exact military service numbers based on the records of military service and veteran registrations in cooperation with relevant agencies, including the Ministry of National Defense, the Ministry of Patriots and Veterans Affairs, the Republic of Korea Headquarters of Army, the Military Manpower Administration, and National Police Agency. The Commission helped 47 veterans obtain an English Certificate of Military Service with five rounds of arrangements.

47 Korean American veterans in Georgia eventually obtained a veteran driver's license and license plate engraved with a *veteran* mark and American flag.

Peter C Lee, a Vietnam War veteran, who obtained a veteran driver's license, appreciated and said, "I was anxious and frustrated since I could not visit Korea and have no acquaintance who could help me due to financial difficulties and COVID-19. However, I felt indescribable joy and pride as I received an English Certificate of Military Service, including the period of my participation in the war, from the ACRC. My homeland did not leave me behind and officially imprinted the Korean Seal on my forgotten record of war participation. I wouldn't have been honored in my life without the help of the ACRC."

Chairperson of the ACRC Jeon Hyun-Heui said, "I extend my sincere gratitude to State Senator and Representative for making efforts to honor Korean American veterans in the US who left their homeland."

State Representative of Georgia William Hitchens Jr said, "I served as

the US Marine and participated in the Vietnam War. As a veteran, I witnessed how courageously Korean American veterans fought.”

He also said, “I express my sincere gratitude to the ACRC and the Korean government for helping us to pay respect to the dedication of Korean American veterans.”

Appendix 1

Delivery ceremony of the Resolution on appreciating the ACRC resolving grievance complaints from Korean American veterans



〈Photograph 1〉 Chairperson of the ACRC Jeon Hyun-Heui, State Senator and Representative of Georgia, ACRC investigators, and family members of veterans.



〈Photograph 2〉 Chairperson Jeon Hyun-Heui, State Senator Eddie Harbison(left) and State Representative William Hitchens Jr(right) holding the House Resolution together

Appendix 2

The House Resolution of Georgia

A RESOLUTION

Recognizing and commending the Anti-Corruption and Civil Rights Commission of the Republic of Korea; and for other purposes.

WHEREAS, members of the early Korean American community served with distinction in the Allied Armed Forces of the United States during World War I, World War II, the Korean War, and the Vietnam War; and

WHEREAS, since the implementation of HB 819 on August 4, 2020, which was unanimously passed by the Georgia State Senate, approximately 150 veterans have obtained the veteran mark and engraved American flag on their driver's licenses; and

WHEREAS, on July 1, 2021, SB 225 entered into force following legal review, and since then, more than 120 veterans have been allowed to ride on Georgia's roads with specially designed vehicle license plates denoting their service; and

WHEREAS, these two Georgia bills are the State of Georgia's first legislative amendments to be petitioned and facilitated by Korean Americans, including the dedication of Georgia's Vietnam War and Korean War veterans; and

WHEREAS, in order to be honored under these bills, proof of participation as an allied force of the United States was required, and in the case of the Republic of Korea, the proof was replaced with an English Certificate of Military Service; and

WHEREAS, due to this requirement, many veterans were left with no way to obtain an English Certificate of Military Service and could not be properly honored, prompting the Anti-Corruption and Civil Rights Commission of the Republic of Korea to act on behalf of these veterans; and

WHEREAS, in cooperation with the Marine Corps - Ministry of National Defense, Ministry of Patriots and Veterans Affairs, Republic of Korea Headquarters of Army, Naval, Air Force respectively, and Military Manpower Administration, the commission was able to provide veterans in need with the necessary documentation; and

WHEREAS, it is abundantly fitting and proper that the Anti-Corruption and Civil Rights Commission of the Republic of Korea is appropriately honored for its dedication on behalf of Korean-American allied veterans.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Anti-Corruption and Civil Rights Commission of the Republic of Korea is recognized and commended for its many outstanding contributions on behalf of Korean-American veterans and extended best wishes for future success.

So resolved, this _____ day of _____, 2022.

Representative Bill Hitchens
District 161
Georgia House of Representatives

ACRC, Sharing “the operation of e-People and Best Practices for Addressing Grievance Complaints” with Indonesia

- On September 21, a policy briefing was held for the Indonesian delegation, including the Vice Minister of Administrative and Bureaucratic Reform and the Head of the Center for Information Services and Complaint of the Ministry of Home Affairs -

(September 21 2022, ACRC)

A policy briefing was organized to share experiences of running “e-People,” a government-wide channel for complaints, and best practices for addressing grievance complaints with senior officials from Indonesia.

On September 21, the Anti-Corruption and Civil Rights Commission (Chairperson Jeon Hyun-Heui, ACRC) held a policy briefing to share the experience of operating e-People and best practices for addressing grievance complaints with the Indonesian delegation, including Diah Natalisa, Vice Minister of Public Service of the Ministry of Administrative and Bureaucratic Reform of the Republic of Indonesia (PANRB).

The Indonesian delegation consisted of senior officials of Indonesian administrative service-related government departments, including the Vice Minister of PANRB, the Head of the Center for Information Services and Complaint of the Ministry of Home Affairs, the Ombudsman, and the Inspector General of Bali.

The Indonesian delegation was especially interested in e-People and practices of addressing grievance complaints in Korea. This is because

Indonesia has established and been operating SP4N-LAPOR by integrating LAPOR and a complaint reporting system ran by central agencies, local governments, and public institutions, which was a part of the 2019 ODA.

In August, the ACRC held the e-People policy briefing for 20 working-level officials of SP4N-LAPOR operation and information technology (IT) management.

e-People (www.epeople.go.kr) run by the ACRC is recognized for its excellence in the international community as a government-wide online communication channel where civil complaints, public proposals, and requests for policy participation could be submitted.

As the national ombudsman of Korea, the ACRC protects people's rights and interests through the correction recommendation, expression of opinion, and active mediation for grievance complaints that each agency could not resolve.

Vice Minister of PANRB Diah Natalisa said, "I was told that Korea has achieved significant reforms in a short period and the ACRC has enormously contributed to such development. Indonesia will learn from this policy briefing for the operation of SP4N-LAPOR so that people could conveniently utilize it like e-People."

Secretary General of the ACRC An Sung Uk said, "We hope that sharing our experience of the operation of e-People and cases of addressing grievance complaints help Indonesia to operate a public administrative system and strengthen the capacity for complaints settlement."

Appendix 2

Photographs of the Policy Briefing for the Indonesian Delegation



ACRC Promotes the “Supports for the Implementation and Operation of Clean Portal, a Corruption and Public Interest Reporting System, for Developing Countries”

- *An Online Cooperation Meeting was held in collaboration with the UNDP on September 21 for the designation of partner countries, inviting relevant authorities from 13 countries -*

(September 22 2022, ACRC)

A meeting was organized to discuss the selection of partner countries for the “Clean Portal Project” of sharing experiences of the implementation and operation of corruption and public interest reporting system with developing countries.

The Anti-Corruption and Civil Rights Commission (Chairperson Jeon Hyun-Heui, ACRC) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) held an online cooperation meeting on September 21 for the designation of partner countries, inviting relevant authorities from 13 developing countries who applied for the participation in the “Clean Portal” project.

“Clean Portal” is a digital system for corruption and public interest reporting in Korea, allowing any citizen to conveniently report corrupt acts and violations of public interests.

In June, the ACRC and the UNDP held an online briefing, inviting 62 relevant officials from 30 developing countries who are interested in the “project sharing digital technology-based anti-corruption system.”

Following the briefing, 13 countries interested in the operative and technical support of Korea’s “Clean Portal” applied for the project.

At the cooperation meeting, an in-depth interview of applicants was carried out and each country’s appropriateness for the project was thoroughly examined in order to select the final two countries.

The ACRC and the UNDP planned to announce the result of the selection of partner countries on September 26. For the next two years, the designated countries will be provided with support for implementation and operation of corruption and public interest reporting system depending on their situation.

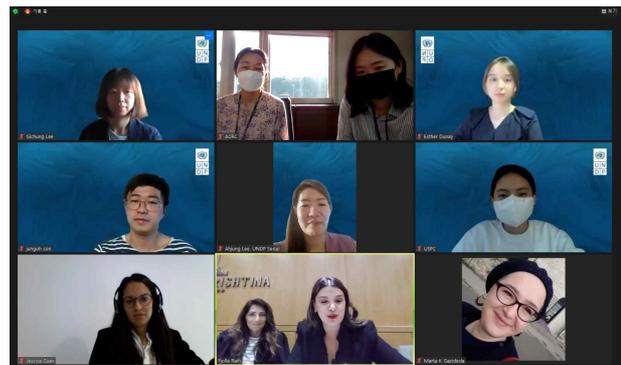
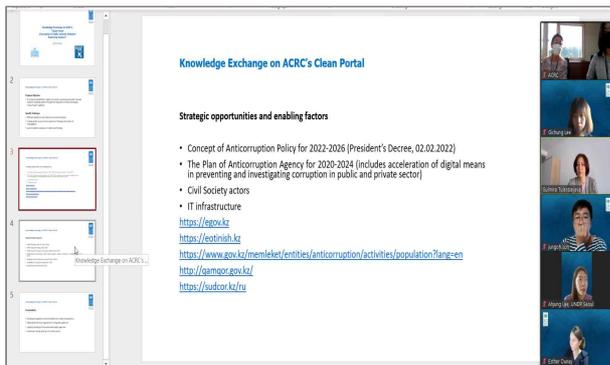
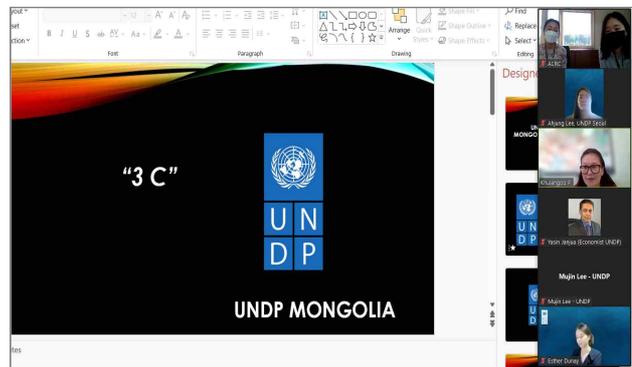
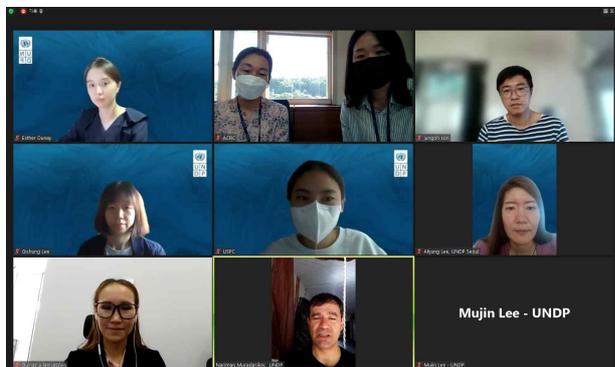
The ACRC is in charge of sharing the experiences of the implementation and operation of the system with partner countries while the UNDP takes on the communication among agencies and the overall project management.

In particular, comparative analysis of institutions and systems of partner countries, training focusing on project managers, and “English material on Clean Portal analysis” that other countries other than partner countries can refer to will be provided in order to enhance the effectiveness of technical support.

ACRC Assistant Chairperson of Planning and Coordination Office Lim

Yoon-Ju said, “It was a chance to reaffirm great interests and expectations from many countries regarding Korea’s *Clean Portal*. The ACRC will provide full support for the successful operation and implementation of digital anti-corruption system in the selected partner countries.”

He also said, “We are looking forward for the experiences of implementation and operation of Clean Portal in Korea to be a help for various countries along with partner countries.”



ACRC, Sharing the Development of Anti-corruption System in Korea with the International Community

- Introduced anti-corruption systems, such as the Prevention of Conflict of Interest Act at the Tashkent Anti-Corruption Forum on September 23 -

(September 26 2022, ACRC)

A forum was organized to introduce remarkable anti-corruption systems in Korea and share experiences on the development of such systems with the international community.

The Anti-Corruption and Civil Rights Commission (Chairperson Jeon Hyun-Heui, ACRC) gave a presentation on the development of Korea's anti-corruption systems, including the implementation of the Prevention of Conflict of Interest Act at the 2nd Tashkent Anti-Corruption Forum online at 4 p.m. on September 23.

The “Tashkent Anti-Corruption Forum” is jointly hosted by the Uzbekistan government and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in order to share best practices for the elimination and prevention of corruption.

Anti-corruption experts across the world, including international organizations, such as the World Bank, and Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), government agencies, such as the US Drug Enforcement Administration and the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission, and the International Anti-Corruption Academy (IACA), participated in the Forum.

The forum consisted of presentations of participants and discussions on three topics: 1) Openness and transparency as an effective mechanism to combat corruption, 2) Formation of an effective assessment of corruption risks, and 3) Anti-corruption education and enlightenment in the fight against corruption.

The ACRC, an anti-corruption agency in Korea, made a presentation on anti-corruption systems in Korea regarding the first topic, “openness and transparency as an effective mechanism to combat corruption.”

The presentation was about the development of anti-corruption systems, starting from the enforcement of the Act on the Prevention of Corruption and the Establishment of the Anti-corruption and Civil Rights Commission in 2002, the Public Interest Whistleblower Protection Act in 2011, the Improper Solicitation and Graft Act in 2016, and to the recent enforcement of the Act on Prohibition of False Claim for Public Funds and Recovery of Illicit Profits in 2020 and the Act on the Prevention of Conflict of Interest Related to Duties of Public Servants in 2022.

In particular, digital-based policies for enhancing anti-corruption transparency, such as e-People and Clean Portal*, utilizing Korea’s advanced information and communications technology, were introduced.

* Clean Portal : a digital system for corruption and public interest reporting in Korea, allowing any citizen to conveniently report corrupt acts and violations of public interests

ACRC Assistant Chairperson of Planning and Coordination Office Lim

Yoon-Ju said, “According to the 2021 G20 Compendium of Good Practices on Corruption Measurement, Korea timely established a comprehensive anti-corruption system in accordance with the ACRC Act.”

He also said, ”The ACRC will make every effort to actively share the efforts and achievements of anti-corruption policies in Korea with the international community.”

ACRC Directly Communicates with the 8th Popularly Elected Local Government Regarding Future Policy Direction for Integrity and Fairness

Municipal auditors' meetings were held on Sep. 14 and 16

(September 14 2022, ACRC)

A venue for communication between central and local government to come up with policies for integrity and fairness to leap forward as an advanced country in the field of anti-corruption has been established.

Anti-Corruption and Civil Rights Commission (ACRC, Chairperson Jeon Hyun Heui) on Sep. 14 and 16 held “meetings with municipal auditors” with a view to communicating directly with and listening opinions from local governments regarding policy direction for fair and transparent society as the 8th popularly elected local government was newly launched.

The meetings were attended by auditors from 17 upper level local governments on Sep. 14 and auditors from 226 municipalities on Sep. 16.

At the meetings, participants shared their opinions about anti-corruption policy implementation direction for the second half of 2022, listened to difficulties in implementing current anti-corruption institutions and put forward suggestions related thereto.

With regard to anti-corruption policy implementation direction, participants

shared: results of check-ups on the compliance status of anti-corruption code of conduct for public officials including the Act on the Prevention of Conflict of Interest Related to Duties of Public Servants and the Improper Solicitation and Graft Act and on the public fiscal management status in the second half of the year; outcomes of Corruption Risk Assessment conducted on municipal laws and regulations and of reinforced management of mandatory anti-corruption education completion; and changes in institutions for handling of corruption and public interest reports, protection of reporters' confidentiality, and restrictions on employment of public officials dismissed for corruption, etc.

ACRC had time to explain anti-corruption institutions for integrity improvements given the characters of upper-level local governments and municipalities.

First of all, in order to support upper-level local governments in their integrity advancement, ACRC gave them an overview of the Integrity Consulting Program* and its achievements over the past years in the meeting on Sep. 14 and also discussed how to develop the program further in the future.

* ACRC along with experts and mentoring institutions (best performing institutions in the Comprehensive Integrity Assessment) examine the status of local governments whose integrity levels are relatively low and offer comprehensive customized solutions

In the meeting for municipalities held on Sep. 16, ACRC explained the Comprehensive Integrity Assessment newly revised this year and matters to which attention should be paid.

From this year, comprehensive integrity levels of local governments are assessed by integrating results of an Integrity Assessment which relies on the integrity survey of stakeholders, including citizens and public officials, with the Anti-Corruption Initiative Assessment (AIA) that evaluates anti-corruption efforts of public institutions of various levels. Most of municipalities will be covered by this Comprehensive Integrity Assessment for the first time since they have not been previously assessed through AIA.

Lastly, ACRC listened to opinions of local officials directly on the spot and plans to review whether to reflect those opinions in its policy implementation. ACRC also collected various opinions of local authorities suggested based on materials shared prior to the meetings, and among opinions suggested during the meetings, those to be reflected into policy measures will be sent back to the divisions in charge for reviews.

ACRC Vice Chairperson Ahn Sung-wook said, “Public officials in local governments have contributed a lot to improving our national integrity level through dedicating themselves to direct communication with the general public,” adding that “ACRC and the 8th popularly elected local governments will closely cooperate in improving the national performance in Corruption Perceptions Index and taking a leap forward as a nation with an advanced integrity level.”