

ACRC Korea Transparency Newsletter (Mar. 2023)

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ACRC introduced “Conflicts of Interests Prevention Systems” at the G20 ACWG Meeting

Actively participated in discussions by making a presentation on cases of promoting the integrity of anti-corruption agencies

(March. 1st 2023, ACRC)

The Anti-Corruption and Civil Rights Commission (ACRC, Chairperson Jeon Hyun-Heui) participated in the 1st 2023 G20 Anti-Corruption Working Group (ACWG) meeting held in India from March 1 to 4 and introduced anti-corruption policies, including a system for filing reports against persons with private interests according to the Act of the Prevention of Conflict of Interests Related to Duties of Public Servants.

The meeting has been held every year since 2010 for international cooperation in anti-corruption and the country holding the Presidency decides and provides major anti-corruption agenda and adopts deliverables, such as anti-corruption principles established through discussions among member countries, as year-end G20 annex.

Delegates from member countries, including India, the G20 Co-Presidency, and Italy, and delegations from international anti-corruption organizations, such as the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), and the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL), participated in the recent meeting.

Major agenda items of discussions on establishing G20 anti-corruption principles included improving information sharing for fighting corruption, strengthening asset recovery mechanisms related to corruption crimes,

strengthening law enforcement cooperation for action against corruption, and promoting the integrity of public bodies.

The South Korean delegation participated in and reviewed the discussions on establishing principles concerning the major agenda items. In particular, on March 2, with regard to promoting the integrity of anti-corruption bodies, the Korean delegation shared the operation of a system for filing reports against persons with private interests pursuant to the “Act on the Prevention of Conflict of Interests Related to the Duties of Public Servants.”

ACRC Assistant Chairperson of Planning and Coordination Office Lim Yoon-Ju said, “The ACRC will further promote the solidarity and cooperation with the international community for anti-corruption by actively participating in a range of discussions on anti-corruption at the G20 ACWG meeting this year.”

Every Public Institution Will Enhance the Confidentiality of the Identity of Corruption and Public Interest Whistleblowers

*ACRC provides training in the prevention of violations against the
duty of confidentiality to public institutions by regions*

(March.30th 2023, ACRC)

The Anti-Corruption and Civil Rights Commission (ACRC, Chairperson Jeon Hyun-Heui) provides training in the prevention of violations of the duty of confidentiality of corruption and public interest whistleblowers for central administrative agencies, local governments, and public service-related organizations by regions from March to July for 11 sessions.

Any Korean citizen could file a report with the ACRC, investigation agencies, and supervisory agencies upon the notice of corrupt acts or behaviors violating public interests according to the Act On The Prevention Of Corruption And The Establishment And Management Of The Anti-corruption And Civil Rights Commission (ACRC Act) and the Public Interest Whistleblower Protection Act.

Filing a civil complaint has recently become more convenient through various channels, such as e-People, communication boards of public institutions, and the Safety Report application. Accordingly, there have been some issues where the confidentiality of

whistleblowers is not ensured in the reports* filed as civil complaints at a time of increasing reports on corruption and violation of public interests in the form of civil complaints. Therefore, special attention is required in the course of handling civil complaints in order to prevent the leak of personal information of corruption and public whistleblowers.

* (Case) Reporting with e-People on medical practices without a license
(violation of the Medical Service Act)

ACRC provides training for officials in charge of the audit or civil complaints handling at central government agencies, local governments, and public service-related organizations by regions to ensure the performance of the duty of confidentiality of corruption and public interests whistleblowers in the course of receiving and processing the “reports in the form of civil complaints.”

The targets of the training expanded to include not only officials in charge of handling the corruption and public interests reporting but also persons in charge of audit and civil complaints handling as the reports are filed in the form of civil complaints.

ACRC resumed training of the prevention of violation of the duty of confidentiality by regions after three years of a halt of in-person training due to COVID-19. ACRC selected 6 regions based on demand survey on training and finalized the schedule* of 11 sessions

of training. The latest training was scheduled on March 31 and ACRC visited regions starting from Sejong and Chungcheong region.

* Sejong and Chungcheong (March 31), Seoul and Gyeonggi (April 12 and 17), Gyeongsang (April 20-21), Jeju (May 1-2), Jeolla (May 25-26, July 7), and Gangwon (June 16)

Professional instructors for integrity education and investigators with considerable experience in cases about protecting corruption and public interests whistleblowers from ACRC participated as instructors at the recent training. The training included major cases of the leak of the identity of corruption and public interests whistleblowers in the course of handling corruption and public interests reporting for more practical education, based on which the ways to prevent the leak of personal identity of whistleblowers and response measures against attempts to identify corruption and public interest whistleblowers were shared.

Director General Kim Ki-Sun for the Investigation and Protection Bureau of ACRC said, “The protection of corruption and public interest whistleblowers begins with fully protecting the confidentiality of the identity of reporters. We will ensure complete prevention of leaks of the identity of reporters taking place in the field through the regional training.”

ACRC, Actively Takes Measures to Resolve Grievance Petitions of Foreigners Living in South Korea

*Holding a meeting on the multilingual petition service of e-People
Ambassadors of five Asian countries to South Korea invited*

(March 31st 2023, ACRC)

The Anti-Corruption and Civil Rights Commission (ACRC, Chairperson Jeon Hyun-Heui) held a meeting on the protection of the rights and interests of foreigners living in South Korea on March 31 in the afternoon at the Korea Press Center, inviting diplomatic delegations from 5 Asian countries*, including Ambassadors of Myanmar to the Republic of Korea.

* Myanmar, Mongolia, Vietnam, Nepal, and Cambodia

“Multilingual Petition Service of e-People” was introduced, and foreigners living in Korea were encouraged to utilize the service at the meeting. Moreover, the meeting was a place for listening to major civil petitions of foreigners living in Korea and sharing extensive opinions regarding measures to protect their rights and interests with the diplomatic delegations.

In addition, with regard to the selection of the host city of World EXPO 2030 in November this year, a promotional video of “World EXPO 2030 Busan” was played during the meeting, and support and cooperation for Busan to be the host city was requested.

“Multilingual Petition Service of e-People” enables filing a petition in

foreign languages in order for foreigners living in Korea who are fallen into the blind spot of the protection of their rights and interests due to the language barrier to easily access the civil petition service. The ACRC launched the service in 3 foreign languages in 2008. The service has expanded and enables filing a petition in 14 languages since 2016.

< Reference: Overview of the multilingual petition service >

▶ Establishment of the multilingual petition service of the e-People system for the purpose of enhancing the protection of rights and interests of overseas Koreans and foreigners living in Korea (initiated the service in English, Chinese, and Japanese first in June 2008)

- People can file a civil petition in 14 foreign languages and check the answers in the corresponding languages

Opening year	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2016
Languages	English, Chinese, Japanese	Vietnamese	Mongolia, B a h a s a Indonesia	Thai, O'zbekcha, B e n g a l i, Cambodian	Sinhala	Nepali	Russian, Myanmar

▶ Current status of civil petitions filed in foreign languages

	2008		2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Available language	3	...	14	14	14	14	14
Number of cases	179		1,630	6,346	24,642 (Total)100,421, 33,473	53,733	22,046 (Average)

In the past three years, an average of 33,400 cases of civil petitions were received and handled through the “Multilingual Petition Service of e-People,” demonstrating achievements in the protection of the rights and interests of foreigners.

Despite the such quantitative expansion, however, other foreign languages, excluding English, Chinese, Japanese, and Russian, were poorly utilized in the multilingual petition service. With this regard, the ACRC planned

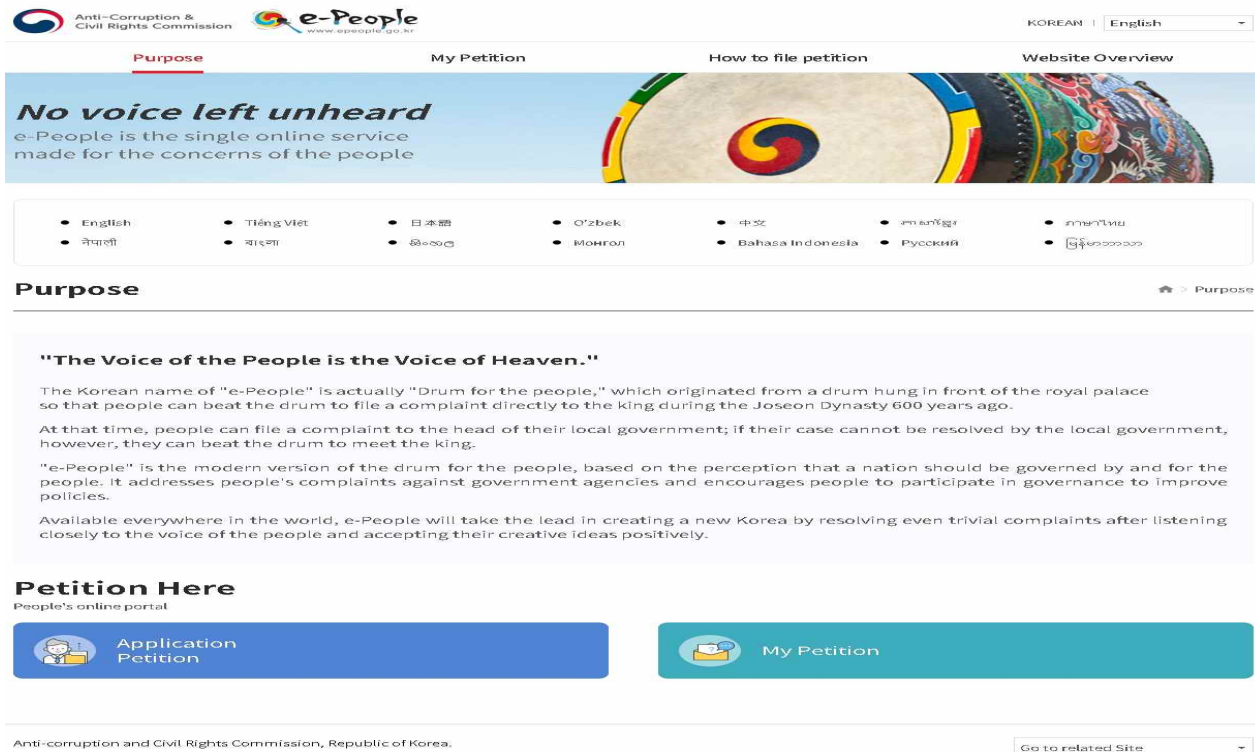
to show that the petition service is also available in the languages of five countries, including Myanmar, Mongolia, Vietnam, Nepal, and Cambodia and request each country for its interest and promotion.

ACRC Chairperson Jeon Hyun-Heui said, “Protecting the rights and interests of foreigners either living or staying in Korea is one of the important roles of the ACRC, in which close cooperation with Ambassadors to the Republic of Korea is imperative. Taking this meeting as an opportunity, I hope to establish close cooperative relations, and please give support and interest in hosting the World EXPO 2030 Busan.”

Appendix

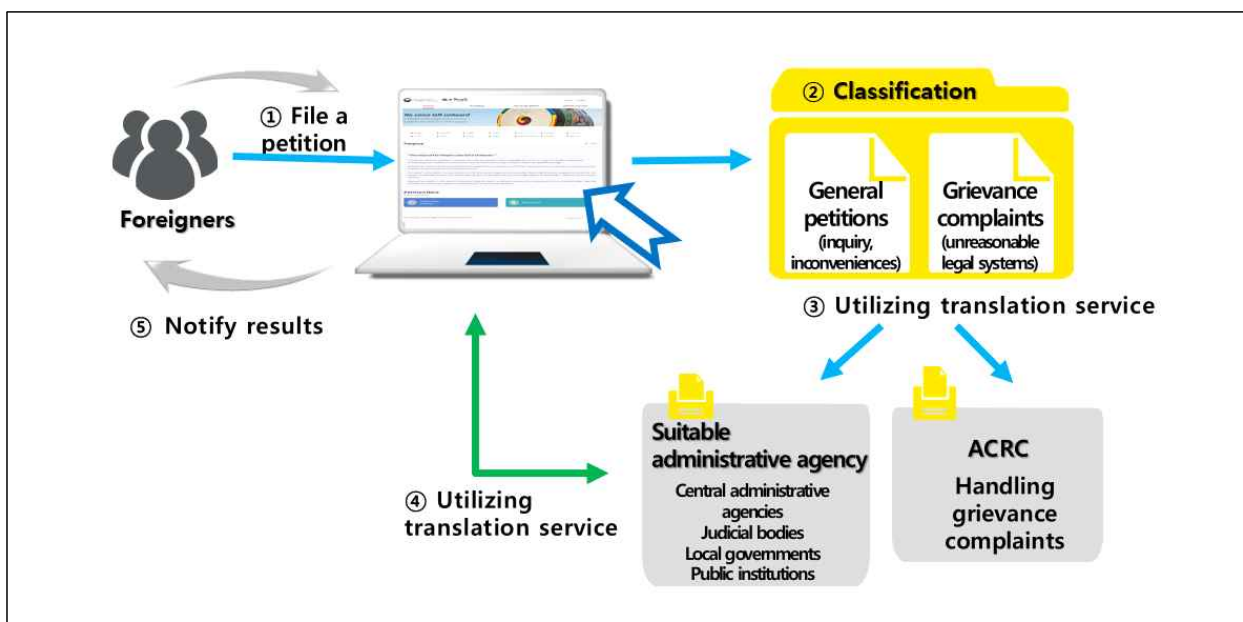
The multilingual petition service of e-People and procedure for processing civil petitions

< Page of the petition service >



The screenshot shows the e-People website header with the Anti-Corruption & Civil Rights Commission logo and the e-People logo. The navigation bar includes links for Purpose, My Petition, How to file petition, and Website Overview. A banner features the text "No voice left unheard" and "e-People is the single online service made for the concerns of the people". Below the banner is a language selection menu with options for English, Tiếng Việt, 日本語, O'zbek, 中文, amharic, አማርኛ, नेपाली, বাংলা, తెలుగు, Монгол, Bahasa Indonesia, Русский, and ગુજરાતી. The "Purpose" section explains the service's origin and mission, stating that the Korean name "e-People" is derived from "Drum for the people," a tradition from the Joseon Dynasty. It describes how people can file complaints directly to the king or through the drum, and how e-People modernizes this process. The "Petition Here" section provides buttons for "Application Petition" and "My Petition". The footer includes the text "Anti-corruption and Civil Rights Commission, Republic of Korea" and a "Go to related Site" link.

< Procedure for processing civil petitions in foreign languages >



ACRC Provided an “Integrity Instructor Training Course” to Educate Integrity Professionals

Take part in the field to promote the integrity level of public offices once being registered as professional integrity instructors

(March 6th 2023, ACRC)

The Anti-Corruption Training Institute of the Anti-Corruption and Civil Rights Commission (ACRC, Jeon Hyun-Heui) provided this year’s first “Integrity Instructor Training Course” for 50 trainees in order to educate integrity professionals.

“Integrity Instructor Training Course” is a training program for professionals, enabling them to acquire professional knowledge of anti-corruption laws and systems, which is organized to develop professional competencies as professional integrity instructors through discussion programs regarding anti-corruption laws and cases.

The Institute recently provided an “Integrity Instructor Training Course” for 3 nights and 4 days from March 6 to 9 at the institute.

The major content of the course included anti-corruption and integrity policies, such as the Act on the Prevention of Conflict of Interest, the Improper Solicitation And Graft Act, the Act On Prohibition Of False Claims For Public Funds And Recovery Of Illicit Profits, the ACRC Act, and the Public Interest Whistleblower Protection Act.

Group discussions on cases of the Act on the Prevention of Conflict of Interest and the Improper Solicitation And Graft Act along with lectures

given by anti-corruption professionals provided an opportunity to enhance the judgment and sensitivity regarding integrity.

Trainees who complete the “Integrity Instructor Training Course” and pass an evaluation are registered as professional integrity instructors after teaching competencies training course and an evaluation of the lecture demonstration.

Once registered as professional integrity instructors, they are entitled to take part in the field to promote the level of integrity of public offices along with the existing 400 professional integrity instructors.

Chairperson of ACRC Jeon Hyun-Heui said, “Training is the most important instrument for public officials to internalize core values, such as anti-corruption, integrity, and fairness. I look forward to every trainee playing an important role in spreading a culture of integrity in our society.”

Korea Shares its Experience in Fighting Corruption with African Countries

(March 28th 2023, ACRC)

The Anti-Corruption and Civil Rights Commission (ACRC) of the Republic of Korea launched a training course to share its anti-corruption policies and experiences with African countries.

The training course was organized online for three days from March 28 by the Anti-Corruption Training Institute of the ACRC. It brought together 54 participants from the Ministry for the Promotion of Good Governance and the Fight against Corruption of Côte d'Ivoire; the Ministry of the Promotion of Good Governance and the Fight against Corruption and the National Commission to Combat Illicit Enrichment of Gabon; Independent Bureau of Anti-Corruption (BIANCO) of Madagascar; and National Office against Fraud and Corruption (OFNAC) of Senegal.

Provided in the French language, the course covered Korea's major anti-corruption measures including Integrity Assessment, Corruption Risk Assessment and whistleblower protection and reward program, which have earned international recognition as best practices in the anti-corruption field.

The capacity building program also dealt with international anti-corruption instruments such as the United Nations Convention against Corruption and the OECD Anti-Bribery Convention, as well as Korea's domestic legislation including the Act on the Prevention of Conflicts of Interest of Public Officials, the Improper Solicitation and Graft Act, and the Act on

Prohibition of False Claims for Public Funds and Recovery of Illicit Profits.

The ACRC has run the ACRC Training Course for International Anti-Corruption Practitioners every year since 2013 for public officials from anti-corruption agencies around the world.

In response to a steady increase in the need for its anti-corruption training, the ACRC developed a new training course conducted in the Russian language for countries in Eastern Europe and Central Asia in 2020 and another conducted in French for countries in Africa this year in addition to its annual courses in English.

To date, the ACRC's multinational training course was attended by a total of 67 countries, producing substantial outcomes in 61 cases including adoption of Integrity Assessment, improvement of whistleblower protection measures, and enactment or amendment of anti-corruption legislation in the participating countries.

Korea's various and systematic anti-corruption education programs were also noted in the G20 Compendium of Good Practices on Public Participation and Anti-Corruption Education adopted at the G20 Bali summit last November.

Citing the Korean government's announcement last month that Korea will increase its annual budget for official development assistance for African nations to 1 trillion won by 2030, Jeon Hyun-heui, Chairperson of the ACRC, said "the ACRC will continue to expand its support for countries in Africa to achieve sustainable development by helping enhance their anti-corruption capacity."