

ACRC Korea Transparency Newsletter (April 2020)

Anti-Corruption Training Institute conducts real-time online anti-corruption education

- ACTI offers real-time online education courses, including the Basic Course for Anti-Corruption Education Instructors -

April 8, 2020
 Anti-Corruption and Civil Rights Commission
 The Republic of Korea

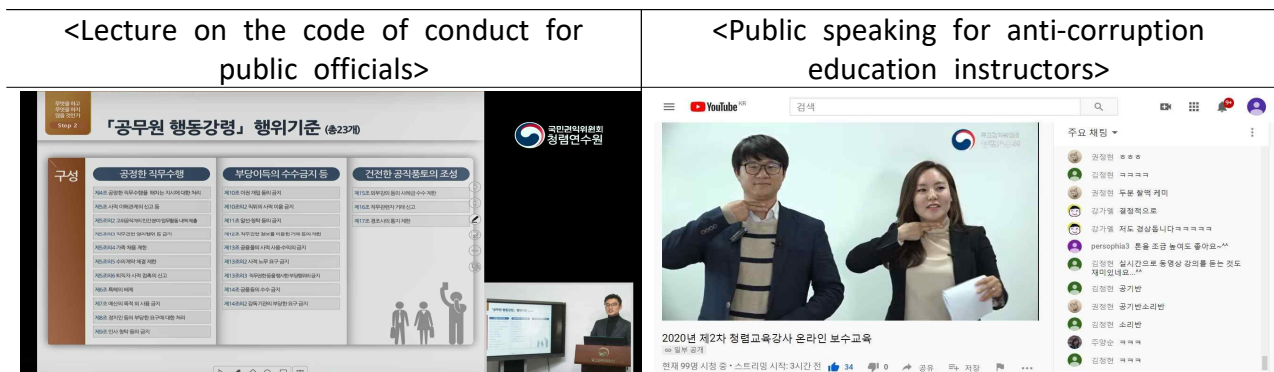
As part of an effort for social distancing due to the spread of COVID-19, anti-corruption education courses of the Anti-Corruption Training Institute (ACTI) are offered via ACRC YouTube channel "ACRC Vision."

ACTI established under the Anti-Corruption and Civil Rights Commission (ACRC, Chairperson Pak Un Jong) provides real-time online education programs utilizing its YouTube channel in order to normalize the operation of anti-corruption education that has been stalled due to the outbreak of COVID-19 pandemic.

ACTI provided "the 1st Basic Course for Anti-Corruption Education Instructors" for two days from March 30 to 31 via its YouTube channel for the first time.

750 public officials and non-public officials who aspire to anti-corruption evangelists applied for this education program, and out of these applicants, 250 people, three times more than the number of people who attended the existing offline education program, watched the online media lecture in real time.

< An example of real time online anti-corruption education program >



Starting from the second week of April, a total of 10 online education programs, including “the 2nd Basic Course for Anti-Corruption Education Instructors” and “the 1st Course for Improvement of Anti-Corruption Capacity” are provided online via ACRC YouTube channel. In April, some 1,400 individuals, more than double the number from last year, took the courses demonstrating keen interest in the online anti-corruption education.

The head of ACTI Kim Won Young said, “In line with the social distancing policy for tackling the spread of COVID-19, we have been providing real-time online anti-corruption training programs. We are devoted to enhancing the effectiveness of the education by keeping up with the recent trend in the education sector to adopt the blended learning approach in which both off- and online courses are available.”

[Best Anti-Corruption Policies]

Let's create a culture of proper budget spending together with residents!

- *South Chungcheong Province makes it mandatory for subsidy program operators to receive education on prevention of fraudulent receipt of subsidies, and also operates "resident watchdog for proper budget spending" -*

April 10, 2020

Anti-Corruption and Civil Rights Commission

The Republic of Korea

In line with the government's stepped-up effort to curb public subsidy frauds, South Chungcheong Province has been strengthening transparency in local financial management with provincial residents through education and public relations activities to prevent government subsidy frauds.

The Anti-Corruption and Civil Rights Commission (ACRC, Chairperson Pak Un Jong) has been discovering and spreading best practices by agency and sector so that public and private sectors can use them to establish and promote integrity policies.

This time, South Chungcheong Province, which received the first grade last year in the Anti-Corruption Initiative Assessment (AIA) that evaluates the integrity efforts of public institutions, an improvement by four grades compared to 2018, was selected as an excellent institution.

In order to fundamentally block subsidy frauds, South Chungcheong Province is providing preventive education to subsidy program operators and creating together with the residents a culture of spending the budget properly. It is also strengthening audits of apartment houses to check the management status and prevent the occurrence of irregularities.

(Extermination of subsidy frauds) To prevent leakage of local subsidies, South Chungcheong Province is actively promoting education and promotional activities to prevent any fraudulent receipt of subsidies.

First of all, it has expanded the scope of education to private businesses as well as civil servants.

South Chungcheong Province provided education to persons in charge of subsidized programs in cities and counties in South Chungcheong Province on the overall subsidy operation, including subsidy payments, and also trained private subsidy program operators on the accounting control system and settlement of accounts regarding subsidies, cases of subsidy frauds, and sanctions against subsidy program operators in case of fraudulent receipt of subsidies.

In particular, South Chungcheong Province is implementing a mandatory pre-education system that requires subsidy program operators to receive education on prevention of subsidy frauds at an initial stage of subsidy application. It also conducted a joint campaign with Asan City to prevent fraudulent receipt of subsidies to guide residents on how to report subsidy frauds and relevant reporting procedures, as well as reward money for reporting, and also produced promotional materials for distribution.

< Subsidy Fraud Prevention Leaflet >



지방보조금 부정수급 신고

용기있는 신고가 청렴한 사회를 만듭니다

신고대상
지방정부의 각종 보조금을 거짓 신청하거나 그 밖의 부정한 방법으로 지급받거나 사용하는 경우에 신고대상이 됩니다.

신고포상금 지급기준
지방재정법에 따라 교부결정을 취소한 금액 또는 반환을 명령한 금액의 30%범위에서 신고포상금으로 지급합니다.

보조금 부정수급 예시

어린이집·지역아동센터 부정수급

- ☑ 허위교사·아동 등록, 출석부 조작
- ☑ 급식비, 식자재비 부풀리기 등 허위 청구
- ☑ 무자격 보육교사 채용, 자격증 대여 등

사회복지시설 부정수급

- ☑ 친인척 허위 등재, 무자격자 채용 등 인건비 부정수급
- ☑ 시설 운영비 관련 허위서류 작성 등

신고요령

- ☑ 신고 취지 및 이유 기재, 부정수급자의 부정수급 행위관련 증거자료 제시

신고사건 처리 절차

신고접수 (신고자→예산담당관실) → 신고사실 확인 (사업부서) → 심의·의결 (보조금 심의위원회) → 신고처리 결과 통보 (예산담당관→신고자)

(Spending Budget Properly) To enhance the soundness and transparency of the budget operation, South Chungcheong Province operates a 'Watchdog for Proper Budget Spending,' which is comprised of its residents. Through public competition, etc among residents. South Chungcheong Province has appointed monitoring agents and conducted outreach and cyber education, and workshops to enhance their understanding and expertise in the local budget system. The monitoring agents accompanied provincial officials during the on-site investigation to handle the case filed with the budget waste

reporting center to scrutinize whether the budget was being used properly.

South Chungcheong Province also held a watchdog forum to share best practices regarding budget waste prevention and reduction, and the monitoring agents directly proposed measures* to facilitate "proper use of the budget."

* (Example) the monitoring agents suggested that reports merely filed as civil complaints be reduced to expand appropriate reports by disclosing reported cases on budget waste, and that incentives as well as public promotion should be provided to induce budget waste reports.

(Strengthening the audit of apartment houses) South Chungcheong Province strengthened the inspection of apartment houses to protect the rights and interests of residents. In order to enhance the expertise of the audit, a public audit team dedicated to managing and auditing apartment houses was established, and private experts, including advisors of the Central Apartment Houses Management Support Center run by the Korea Land and Housing Corp., as well as certified public accountants, resident auditors and former government officials, participated in the audit team.

Through the audit, South Chungcheong Province detected a total of 131 cases of irregularities, including ▲ improper appointment of housing managers and construction and service operators, ▲ inappropriate payment of benefits to the heads and employees of the apartment house administration offices, ▲ improper reserving of long-term repair fund, and ▲ improper operating expenses for the committee of dwellers representatives, etc.

South Chungcheong Province will produce and distribute major audit case books to apartment complexes, etc. in order to prevent the occurrence of illegal management of apartments and enhance transparency in apartment management.

"I expect that the education and public promotion to root out irregularities involving public subsidies, which target public officials and the general public, will continue to be strengthened in the future so that accountability and transparency in public finances can greatly increase," said Lim Yoon-joo, director general of the Anti-Corruption and Civil Rights Commission.

[Best Anti-Corruption Policy]

Fairness in the recruitment process enhanced through participation and disclosure

- The integration of public institutions' recruitment system by Gyeonggi Province and the monitoring of the blind recruitment process by the Korea Communications Agency introduced as best anti-corruption policy cases -

April 24, 2020

Anti-Corruption and Civil Rights Commission
The Republic of Korea

Gyeonggi Province and the Korea Communications Agency (KCA) are taking the lead in establishing a culture of fair recruitment by enhancing transparency in the hiring process and selecting them based on their job skills.

The Anti-Corruption and Civil Rights Commission (ACRC, Chairperson Pak Un Jong) has been discovering and spreading best practices by agency and sector so that public and private sectors can use them to establish and promote integrity policies.

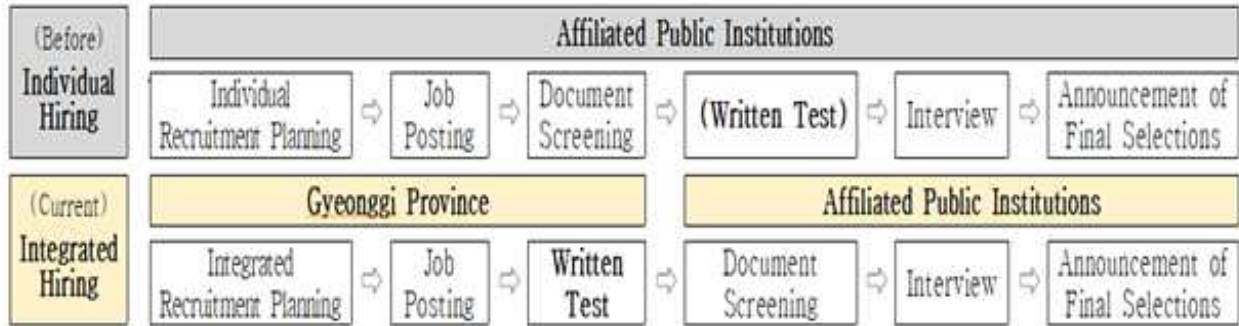
The ACRC has selected policy cases of Gyeonggi Province and the KCA as excellent integrity policies to root out hiring irregularities.

Gyeonggi Province is creating a transparent recruitment culture by integrating and managing recruitment that used to be conducted by individual public organizations affiliated therewith.

The KCA has increased fairness in hiring by eliminating factors that can cause bias in the recruitment process and selection errors in advance through “full blind recruitment system” using artificial intelligence (AI) and constantly monitoring whether the full blind recruitment system works properly.

(Integrated recruitment of public institutions) Since 2015, Gyeonggi Province has been operating “the integrated recruitment system of public institutions” that consolidates different hiring procedures for each affiliated public institution to systematically manage hiring process of public institutions and prevent corruption.

< Integrated Recruitment Process of Public Institutions >



The integrated recruitment, which is proceeded “separately and together,” removes corruption-causing factors in hiring process and selects talent suitable for the characteristics of the public institutions. The recruitment process, such as job posting, acceptance of applications, and written tests, is entrusted to external specialized institutions by Gyeonggi Province, and the subsequent process of document screening, interviews and announcement of final successful candidates are carried out by the organization which is to hire the final candidates.

First of all, Gyeonggi Province provided equal opportunities for applicants to take the written tests first by changing the existing process in which institutions used to have no written tests or conduct document screening first. It also improved job seekers’ accessibility to job information by providing recruitment plans of its affiliated public agencies on the integrated recruitment website of Gyeonggi Province.

In addition, Gyeonggi Province has also strengthened management of the hiring process carried out by its affiliated public agencies. Interviews were conducted based on the principle of selecting job candidates focusing on their duty-related skills without other information such as academic background, etc. revealed, and interviewers are also provided with prior training on the standards, methods, and precautions, etc. to adhere to before conducting interviews. In addition, Gyeonggi Province increased the proportion of external professionals among interviewers from one-half to two-thirds or bigger.

This year, Gyeonggi Province supplemented its existing recruitment system to hire talent with job-oriented skills by revamping the evaluation of job applicants, which used to be based on the results of written tests on the common subjects such as English, Korean

history and General Knowledge, to be based on the National Competency Standards (NCS).

(Monitoring blind recruitment) The Korea Communications Agency (KCA) has been eliminating corruption-causing factors in the recruitment process in advance by concealing information of job applicants other than the one necessary to evaluate his/her job-related skills and monitoring the compliance with such concealment of information.

Since the adoption of the blind recruitment system based on the National Competency Standards (NCS) in 2015 in order to employ talent with high job performance skills, the KCA has continuously improved its way of hiring employees and introduced “the full blind recruitment system” using artificial intelligence in 2018.

<Major Contents of “Full Blind Recruitment”>



Last year, the KCA reorganized outside members of the interview screening committee and allowed internal and external experts to inspect violations of concealment of personal information, further enhancing the fairness of hiring.

In order to prevent certain people from being frequently appointed as interviewers, the number of outside committee members was expanded from 79 to 347, and the proportion of female committee members was also increased. In addition, the scope of areas which external interviewers are specialized in expanded from eight to 14 to enable more professional job performance evaluations.

Internal and external experts attend the interview to check whether interviewers ask questions about gender, academic background, age, and physical conditions to applicants,

and whether the order of questions, allocation of time and number of questions are evenly distributed among applicants.

With the strengthening of the full blind recruitment conceals job applicants' personal information throughout the recruiting process, the employment of high school graduates, career-interrupted women, the disabled and national veterans has increased, securing diversity in human resources.

ACRC Anti-Corruption Bureau General Director Lim Yoon Ju said, "The hiring scandal at public institutions is an act that destroys the trust of our society, therefore it is important to establish a more transparent and fair recruitment culture through continuous improvement of the hiring system to fundamentally prevent the occurrence of hiring irregularities from occurring."

The 19th IACC of 2020 postponed to December

- The Conference expected to be held on 1-4 December at BEXCO in Busan due to COVID-19 -

May 11, 2020

Anti-Corruption and Civil Rights Commission

The Republic of Korea



The 19th edition of the International Anti-Corruption Conference (IACC), which is the largest anti-corruption forum and was originally planned to take place from the 2-5 of June 2020, has been postponed until December this year due to the global spread of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Anti-Corruption and Civil Rights Commission (ACRC, Chairperson Pak Un Jong) and Transparency International (TI) have decided to hold the 19th IACC from the 1-4 of December this year at Busan Exhibition and Convention Center (BEXCO) located in the metropolitan city of Busan.

The 9th session of the International Anti-Corruption Academy (IACA) Assembly of Parties, which was scheduled to occur along with the original timeline of the 19th IACC, has been also postponed to take place from 30 November to 1 December in BEXCO.

The decision of the postponement of the conference was made after the ACRC and TI had agreed to put their highest priority on the health and safety of Korean citizens and the event attendees when the novel coronavirus have affected all around the world.

The hosting parties also considered that it would be too risky to carry on hosting the event in which some 2,000 individuals from 140 nations are expected to take part at a time when countries around the world are taking strict virus control measures, including restrictions on domestic and overseas travels and movements and large gatherings as well as social distancing.

Changes in registration, programs, side events and more that will follow the postponement will soon be announced on the official Korean website of the 19th IACC*

* <http://www.iacc2020.kr>

Pak Un Jong, the Chairperson of the ACRC asked for understanding by stating that “the decision to delay the conference was inevitable as it was reached when the world has been in an urgent need for global collaboration in overcoming the coronavirus crisis.”

Chairperson Pak added that “the 19th IACC will serve as a meaningful opportunity where we discuss important agenda, such as government transparency, citizens’ sense of responsibility and trust, and the importance of correct information, which bear more significance than ever in Korea in the midst of the pandemic crisis. Therefore, we as hosts are committed to delivering a safer and more successful 19th edition of the IACC.”

Attachment

Overview of the 19th IACC

- **(Name)** The International Anti-Corruption Conference
- **(Dates & Venue)** 1 December 2020 (Tue) - 4 December 2020 (Fri) at BEXCO in Busan
- **(Hosts)** The Anti-Corruption and Civil Rights Commission & Transparency International*
 - * Transparency International: a non-governmental organization founded in 1993 with the mission of eradicating global and national corruption. It publishes ranks and scores of 176 countries on their corruption perception index each year.
- **(Purpose)** The largest international anti-corruption forum in which individuals from both public and private anti-corruption communities come together to seek opportunities for exchange and cooperation and share information once every two years
- **(Participants)** 2,000 attendees from the government, academia, civil society and media in 140 states
- **(Theme)** Designing 2030: Truth, Trust and Transparency
- **(Programs)** Main events (opening & closing ceremonies, plenary sessions and workshops) and side events (film festival, music concert, etc.)

< Program details >

Program	Detail	
Plenary session	· To welcome all conference participants in discussing eight topics including future integrity strategies, global collaboration to tackle dirty money, and transparency standards for good governance	
Workshop	· To host around 100 to 200 participants in some 50 sessions on a wide range of anti-corruption agenda, such as business, the environment, human rights, refugees etc.	
Side event	Films for transparency	· To screen films with the theme of investigative journalism, whistleblowing and other anti-corruption issues
	Integrity concert	· To be open to the public for conversations on social justice and corruption issues with prominent experts from anti-corruption communities at home and abroad
	Fair play music concert	· To put on anti-corruption themed performances of young musicians who have won a global competition

**Laws subject to public interest reporting expanded ‘284→467,
revised Public Interest Whistleblower Protection Act slated to be promulgated**

- With Major Acts, such as the Act on Special Cases Concerning the Punishment, etc. of Sexual Crimes, the Military Service Act, and the Act on Special Cases Concerning the Punishment, etc. of Child Abuse Crimes, added, the protection of public interest reporters is more bolstered -

May 12, 2020

Anti-Corruption and Civil Rights Commission

The Republic of Korea

The revised Public Interest Whistleblower Protection Act (the “Amendments”), which newly added 182 laws including the Act on Special Cases Concerning the Punishment, etc. of Sexual Crimes and the Military Service Act that are socially critical and urgent to the existing 284 laws the violation of which is deemed as a conduct detrimental to the public interest, were passed at today’s Cabinet meeting to be promulgated on May 19. The promulgated bill will come into force on November 20, 2020.

※ Aside from the newly added 182 laws, three Acts that had been repealed were deleted from the list of existing 284 laws and four laws that had been split off from the repealed laws were newly added to the list, making the total number of Acts subject to the Public Interest Whistleblower Protection Act add up to 467.

The laws that were listed in the amendment bills proposed by the Anti-Corruption and Civil Rights Commission (ACRC, Chairperson Pak Un Jong) in 2018 and this year and the laws listed in the bill proposed by the 20th National Assembly members are both reflected in the Amendments passed this time.

The Amendments are to add the largest number of laws to be subject to the Public Interest Whistleblower Protection Act (the “Act”) since the implementation of the Act on September 30, 2011. The ACRC expects public interest reporters who have been left in the blind spot of the protection to be entitled to the reinforced protection through this expansion of laws covered by the Act.

※ Change in the number of laws covered by the Public Interest Whistleblower Protection Act (2011.9.30.) 180 laws → (2015.7.24.) 279 laws → (2018.5.1.) 284 laws

Currently, any conduct detrimental to ▲ the health and ▲ safety of the people, ▲ the environment, ▲ the interests of consumers, ▲ fair competition or ▲ other equivalents that has been performed or is likely to be performed in violation of the 284 Acts is subject to public interest reporting.

The laws covered by the Act have been on the rise since the implementation of the Act.

However, there was a criticism that they are still insufficient to reflect all the various conducts detrimental to the public interest. As a matter of fact, among the public interest reports received by the ACRC this year, there was a case of a false report on a transaction of real estate under which the parties did not enter into a sales contract, which could be deemed a violation of the Act on Report on Real Estate Transactions, etc. It was not possible to process this case as a public interest report since the Act on Report on Real Estate Transactions, etc. was not subject to public interest reporting.

However, as the promulgated bill to revise the Public Interest Whistleblower Protection Act that was passed at the National Assembly on April 29 was approved at a Cabinet meeting, the 182 laws that are closely related to the public livelihood, such as the Act on Special Cases Concerning the Punishment, etc. of Sexual Crimes, the Military Service Act and the Act on Special Cases Concerning the Punishment, etc. of Child Abuse Crimes, which are socially significant and urgent, became newly subject to public interest reporting.

Accordingly, all conducts including: sexual abuses against those aged below 13 or the disabled; taking a photograph of a person's face or body, etc. and digitally editing, photoshopping, or distributing it without the consent of that person, causing a sense of sexual humiliation; draft dodging and evasion committed by persons liable for military service; and child abuse crimes committed by those working at child welfare institutions, schools or daycare centers, etc. will be subject to public interest reporting.

Anyone can report such conducts and receive protection including guarantee of confidentiality, personal safety protection, mitigation of culpability, and protection against disadvantageous measures.

The ACRC Chairperson Pak Un Jong said, "I expect there will be more courageous reports on grave public interest infringements as the Amendments will strengthen the protection for reporters," adding that "We will continue to strive to create an environment in which anyone can report without fear."