

ACRC Korea Transparency Newsletter (August 2020)

International Anti-Corruption Conference to be held in Korea in December through online format due to COVID19

- ACRC will organize the IACC to ensure general public could freely join discussions on the latest anti-corruption issues such as post-COVID19 and fake news -

September 9, 2020

Anti-Corruption and Civil Rights Commission
The Republic of Korea

The 19th International Anti-Corruption Conference (IACC) will be held online in December this year due to the spread of COVID-19.

The Anti-Corruption and Civil Rights Commission (ACRC, Chairperson Jeon Hyeon-Heui) and Transparency International (TI) have decided to hold the 19th IACC online safe from risks of COVID 19 from 1- 4 of December this year.

Since 1983, the IACC has been held every two years. It is the biggest global anti-corruption forum where about 2,000 experts from countries around the world share anti-corruption information and experiences and find solutions for challenges, drawing interest and participation from people throughout the world.

The ACRC, representing the government of the host country, takes the charge of the overall management of the 19th IACC which will be held under the theme of “Designing 2030: Truth, Trust and Transparency”.

For the first time in the IACC history, the 19th edition of the conference will be held online due to the COVID19 global pandemic. The virtual conference will discuss latest anti-corruption issues in and outside Korea such as ‘Post-COVID19, fake news, money laundering, populism, and extremism’

At the conference, heads of international organizations, such as the United Nations (UN), the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development

(OECD), and the International Monetary Fund (IMF), ministerial-level senior public officials from countries around the world, representatives of global non government organizations, and CEOs of multinational corporations share their opinions on global anti-corruption trends and share best practices of their countries.

They will also talk with global online attendants about anti-corruption issues through online Q&A sessions, one-on-one chats, and discussions.

Along with such meaningful discussions, various side events such as a talk concert, anti-corruption film festival, music concert will take place during the conference period to attract the interest of ordinary citizens to anti-corruption issues.

Since the virtual conference will put no limits in terms of space and time, a large number of people are expected to join the event. Especially, ordinary citizens and young people who have a great interest in ‘anti-corruption’ and ‘fairness’ could freely join the conference.

Detailed information on the conference such as programs, side events, speaker information, and registration will be posted on the IACC website (www.iacc2020.kr)

The 19th IACC had been initially planned to take place in June this year in Coex, Seoul. Due to the spread of COVID19, however, it was postponed until December with changes in the venue to Busan Exhibition and Convention Center (BEXCO) in Busan. As the virus does not seem to disappear anytime soon, the ACRC has decided to host the conference online.

ACRC Chairperson Jeon Hyeon-Heui said, “At a time when due to the COVID19 pandemic, trust, truth and transparency have become important values more than ever before, ‘integrity’ will become an important national competitiveness in the post-COVID19 era.”

She added, “The ACRC will make sure that by successfully hosting the 19th IACC together with citizens, Korea’s national competitiveness of integrity will get significantly stronger.”

Attachment

Overview of the 19th IACC

- **(Name)** The International Anti-Corruption Conference (IACC)
- **(Period)** 1 December 2020 (Tue) - 4 December 2020 (Fri)
- **(Format)** Virtual Conference (further information will be posted on IACC website <http://www.iacc2020.kr>)
- **(Hosts)** The Anti-Corruption and Civil Rights Commission & Transparency International*
- **(Uniqueness)** The largest international public and private forum in the area of anti-corruption, where anti-corruption stakeholders communicate and cooperate with each other, exchanging information (held once every two years since 1983)
- **(Size)** 3,000 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To host about 3,000 participants in discussing eight topics including future integrity strategies, global collaboration to tackle dirty money, and transparency standards for good governance 	
Workshop	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To host around 300 participants in some 60 sessions on a wide range of anti-corruption agenda, such as business, the environment, human rights, refugees etc. 	
Side event	Films for transparency	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To screen films with the theme of investigative journalism, whistleblowing and other anti-corruption issues
	Integrity concert	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To put on anti-corruption themed performances of young musicians who have won a global competition

ACRC adds active administration to the integrity survey items for the 2020 Integrity Assessment

*- Local sports associations and small local councils to be included in the
scope of institutions subject to the assessment -*

July 28, 2020

Anti-Corruption and Civil Rights Commission
The Republic of Korea

“Active administration” will be added to the sub-items of the 2020 Integrity Assessment for 723 public institutions, and local sports associations and small local councils in local provinces with a population of 200,000 or less will be included in the scope of public institutions subject to the 2020 Integrity Assessment.

The Anti-Corruption and Civil Rights Commission (ACRC, Chairperson Jeon Hyun Heui) will conduct a large-scale survey of more than 200,000 people, including citizens and public officials, who have directly experienced the service of public institutions, starting from next month to November this year in order to measure the integrity level of public institutions in 2020.

A total of 723 public institutions are subject to the integrity assessment this year, including central and local administrative agencies, education offices, public service-related organizations, local councils, state-run universities, and public medical institutions.

Starting this year, the government will expand the scope of public institutions subject to the assessment to include small-sized local councils in provinces with a population of less than 200,000, which have recently seen a number of irregularities. In addition, the integrity level of local sports associations will be additionally assessed to diagnose corruption-prone areas

in the sports community, which has become a social issue.

In particular, the ACRC decided to strengthen the elements of active administration by including items of “active and responsible work process” in the integrity survey questionnaire. Previously, the ACRC deducted up to 7 percent of the total integrity level in the event of corruption cases in the public institutions, and also deducted points in the case where disciplinary action for passive administration is given since last year.

In addition, the ACRC plans to increase the proportion of external integrity that is evaluated by the people who have directly experienced the work of public institutions in person to reflect the people’s voices more.

The ACRC will complete a survey for measuring the integrity of public institutions and analysis of data on corruption cases from next month to November and announce the results in December.

The results of the integrity assessment will be reflected in the evaluation of major public institutions conducted by the Ministry of Economy and Finance and the Ministry of the Interior and Safety, etc. When the ACRC announces the result of its integrity assessment, the public institution concerned is required to publish it on its official website for at least one month within 14 days of the announcement.

The Public Institutions Integrity Assessment is a system that diagnoses the level of integrity by combining the results of surveys conducted on people and public officials who have experienced the work of public institutions directly and the current status of corruption in the institutions concerned. The ACRC has been measuring and disclosing the integrity levels of public institutions every year since 2002.

The ACRC believes that it is important for public officials to listen more actively to the voices of the people and work in a transparent manner, and plans to conduct an assessment of the integrity of public institutions without a hitch to find out how much people feel about the anti-corruption efforts of public offices.

ACRC Director General Lim Yoon Ju said, “We are going through a period of huge changes in our daily lives this year, and in such a difficult situation, we need to promote anti-corruption policy without wavering so that our society can take a leap forward,” adding that “We ask for the public attention and cooperation to accurately diagnose and improve the level of integrity and the corruption-causing factors in the public sector.”

OECD commented Korea's three-year consecutive increase on CPI ranking
- ACRC's corruption fighting efforts in the public sector is highly acknowledged -

August 11, 2020

Anti-Corruption and Civil Rights Commission

The Republic of Korea



The Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) said that the Korean government has taken significant steps to fight corruption

OECD Economic and Development Review Committee (EDRC), in its Economic Review of Korea 2020, published in August, highly recognized the Korean government's efforts to fight corruption. The report says that corruption of low-level public officials

has been almost eradicated, in particular thanks to the Anti-Corruption and Civil Rights Commission (ACRC, Chairperson Jeon Hyun-Huei)

The report also says Korea's rankings on the Transparency International Corruption Perception Index and the World Bank Control of Corruption Indicator have been improved over the past three years, with improvement on other indicators as well.

Significant progresses that the report states the Korean government has made includes: ▲ reinforced protection of whistleblowers in Act on the Prevention of Corruption and the Establishment and Management of the ACRC; ▲ provisions

of conflict of interest prevention added to the Code of Conduct of Public Officials; and ▲ enforcement of the Public Finance Recovery Act.

It also added that recently a number presidential pardons were denied to politicians, business executives or public officials involved in corruption. In addition, it mentioned that as a meaningful step to fight corruption, the National Assembly passed a bill to set up a special anti-corruption investigation unit tasked with looking into wrongdoing by high-ranking government officials, which includes senior prosecutors, judges and police officers.

Every two years, the OECD publishes a country review report for each member state to monitor economic condition and policies and suggest policy directions.

It is the first time that corruption issues were covered in a meaningful proportion in Economic Review of Korea, which seems to measure the effect of anti-corruption efforts on economic development.

According to a research conducted by an industrial-academic cooperation team of the Seoul National University in 2017, a rise in Corruption Perception Index closely links to economic development. In fact, as of 2016, 10 point increase in CPI for five years led to 67 trillion won increase in GDP during the same period of time.

ACRC Chairperson Jeon Hyun-Heui said, “The fact that OECD commented that Korea’s fight against corruption in Korea has made significant progress could mean that the global community has recognized the government’s policies for a transparent society. “She added,”The ACRC, as anti-corruption agency of Korea, will continue to work hard to make bigger progress in ending corruption.”

ACRC held metropolitan government auditors meeting to improve the integrity of local government officials

- ACRC made recommendations for improvement on 60 bylaws in conjunction with 30 public institutions -

August 11, 2020

Anti-Corruption and Civil Rights Commission

The Republic of Korea



Marking the second anniversary of the 7th popularly elected officials, the chairperson of the Anti-Corruption and Civil Rights Commission called on local government officials (including local councilors) to establish the public service ethics and codes of conduct that meet the public's expectations.

The Anti-Corruption and Civil Rights Commission (ACRC, Chairperson Jeon Hyun Heui) on August 11 held a meeting of auditors of metropolitan councils at the building of the ACRC in order to come up with and spread measures to improve the integrity of officialdom.

The participants of the meeting discussed ways to improve the integrity assessment and corruption risk assessment system to induce active

administration; measures to overhaul the system to prevent conflicts of interest; the status of inspection of fraudulent claims to prevent leaks of public finances; and other matters related to anti-corruption policies.

Since taking office on June 29, Jeon Hyun Heui, chairperson of the Anti-Corruption and Civil Rights Commission, has stressed the establishment of discipline in public offices that meet the public demands by redefining the anti-corruption control tower function of the Commission.

The ACRC plans to come up with the following measures and actively promote their implementation.

(Improvement of evaluation factors for inducing active administration) Starting this year, the “active administration” element will be added to the survey questionnaire to assess the integrity levels of public institutions to reflect whether the public institution concerned provided active administration services. In particular, from September, the ACRC will issue recommendations to make improvements on enacted or revised laws and regulations of each ministry so that each ministry can induce active administration in the process of enacting and revising their laws by adding “the probability to cause passive administration services” to the criteria for the Corruption Risk Assessment that eliminates risk factors for corruption in advance.

(Establishment of more effective code of conduct system for local governments) Local governments at various levels will update their codes of conduct for members of local councils by incorporating the provisions related to the prevention of conflicts of interest and abuse of power and implement recommendations for the improvement of the system related to the reporting on local councilors’ holding concurrent office and the prohibition of signing private contracts. In the meantime, the ACRC will promote the enactment of the Act on the Prevention of Conflicts of Interest in Public Offices and conduct an inspection of the implementation of the code of

conduct for local councils starting from the end of September.

(Checking the status of fraudulent claims on public finances) Starting in September this year, the ACRC will inspect the implementation status of the Public Finance Recovery Act, including the recovery of all illegal profits and the imposition of penalties of up to five times the amount of fraudulently claimed public funds.

ACRC Chairperson Jeon Hyun Heui said, “Local governments are the closest point of contact for direct communication and interaction with the general public and businesspeople, and the level of integrity of local government officials is the basis of national integrity,” and called on auditors from 17 metropolitan and provincial governments to “exercise their duties from the perspective that the passive administration is also a form of corruption.”

ACRC Mobile Shinmoongo launched onsite grievance-resolving in flood damage areas due to water release from Yongdam Dam

- Chairperson Jeon Hyun-Heui visited Yongdong-gun, North Chungcheong Province, Geumsan-gun, South Chungcheong Province, Yongdam dam in Jinan. "The ACRC will pro-actively listen grievances of affected residents and conduct institutional improvement accordingly -

August 14, 2020

Anti-Corruption and Civil Rights Commission

The Republic of Korea



The Anti-Corruption and Civil Rights Commission will remove grievances of residents damaged by torrential rains on 8 August and water release from Yongdam Dam.

On 14 August, the Anti-Corruption and Civil Rights Commission (ACRC, Chairperson, Jeon Hyun-Heui) visited Yongdam dam and the local government agencies nearby to check how much damage was incurred.

The ACRC decided to send to the affected area its Mobile Shinmoongo consisting of complaint consultants and flood damage recovery supporters.

The professional complaint consultants will be sent to Yongdong-gun, north Chungcheong Province to actively resolve various grievances of residents suffering flood damages.

The flood damage recovery supporters will give a helping hand to residents of Geumsan-gun, South Chungcheong Province in their flood recovery work.

In addition, the ACRC will thoroughly analyze laws and regulations to see if there is any possible cause for the damage by the recent torrential rain and the water discharge from Yongdam dam. If any problem is discovered, the ACRC will launch institutional improvement to prevent reoccurrence of such damages.

Residents affected can file complaints on ACRC's e-People (epeople.go.kr).

ACRC Chairperson Jeon Hyun Heui said, "If civil grievances were filed due to natural disasters like the flood like this time, the ACRC will make an onsite visit to the affected area and resolve sufferings of the residents and, if necessary, will launch institutional improvement as well.

ACRC conducted business compliance officer training

- On 28 August, compliance officers of some 100 companies attended in the video webinar of business compliance officer training -

August 28, 2020

Anti-Corruption and Civil Rights Commission

The Republic of Korea

The Anti-Corruption and Civil Rights Commission (ACRC, Chairperson Jeon Hyun-Heui) carried out Compliance Officer Training to promote ethical management and nurture a business culture of ethics. The training was participated by business people of large, small, and mid sized companies in various sectors.

Compliance Officer Training is a government-funded training conducted every year to strengthen expertise of business compliance officers and support companies' voluntary efforts to spread a culture of ethical management. Due to COVID19, the training was delivered online this year.

This year's training covered ethical management trend in Korea and beyond, with a special focus on the trend of reinforced internal accounting management system, so that business people could get a practical help.

Training program includes: ▲ cases and trend of work ethics in multi-national companies; ▲ best cases of ethical management efforts of Korean companies; and ▲ amendments to Outside Audit Act and how businesses can response to the amendments.

Assistant Chairperson Pak Kye Ok for Planning and Coordination Office of the ACRC said, "The ACRC hopes that the training this year could better help trainers learn fast changing global trend of ethical management and give them a practical help. In addition, the Commission expects companies' efforts of spreading a culture of ethical management to result in competitiveness enhancement and sustainable growth of Korean companies.