

ACRC Korea Transparency Newsletter (Dec. 2022)

- ▷ **ACRC stated that “a positive perception of integrity and fairness has spread across society”**

- ▷ **ACRC held various anti-corruption public events for the public during the Anti-Corruption Weeks from Dec. 7th to 9th as Dec. 9th marked the UN’s World Anti-Corruption Day**

- ▷ **ACRC, Chose 5 Grand Award-Winning Works of the “Public Integrity Content Contest,” including “Mother’s Special Moving-in Notification”**

- ▷ **ACRC lays the foundation for integrity and ethics management with experts from legal and economic circles**

- ▷ **ACRC asking the people about “2023 priority tasks of policy and institutional improvement”**

ACRC stated that "a positive perception of integrity and fairness has spread across society"

- "Result of 2022 Corruption Perception Survey" is released -

(28 December, 2022, ACRC)

According to the "2022 Corruption Perception Survey," the perception - society and the public offices are corrupt - improved among every survey participant compared to the last year. Moreover, the perception of the level of fairness in society improved compared to that of last year.

The Anti-Corruption and Civil Rights Commission (Chairperson Jeon Hyun-Heui, ACRC) carried out the 2022 Corruption Perception Survey and released the survey result regarding ▲ perception of corruption in society as a whole, ▲ perception of corruption level of public offices, ▲ experiences of corruption, ▲ perception of fairness level, and ▲ effectiveness of the government's anti-corruption policy implementation.

The ACRC has conducted the Corruption Perception Survey every year since 2002 in order to examine the effectiveness of existing anti-corruption policies and use it as basic data for establishing policies in the future.

This year, the survey was carried out on two separate occasions in June and October, involving 1,400 general public, 700 business people, 630 experts, 400 foreigners, and 1,400 public officials. The survey was commissioned by the ACRC and conducted by Hyundai Research Consulting, a survey agency. Sampling error is a 95% confidence level with a margin of error of $\pm 2.62\%$ (general public), ± 3.7 (business people), ± 3.9 (experts), ± 4.9 (foreigners), and $\pm 2.62\%$ (public officials).

Perception of corruption in society as a whole

As for the level of corruption in society as a whole, the ratio of response — society is corrupt (Very corrupt + Relatively corrupt) — was the highest among general public (54.4%), followed by experts (39.0%), business people (36.0%), foreigners (13.5%) and public officials (8.0%) in order of highest ratio.

<Perception of Corruption in Society in 2022>



Compared to the last year, the perception — society is corrupt — improved among every survey participant, and corruption perception among business people, in particular, dropped by 19.0%p, being improved the most.

Though it was highly perceived that society at large is corrupt due to large-scale corruption, such as the real estate scandal of Korea Land and Housing Corporation (LH), last year, people’s perception generally improved this year.

< Changes in the ratio of response — society is “corrupt”>

(Unit: %, %p)

Year	General public	Business people	Experts	Foreigners	Public officials
'22	54.4	36.0	39.0	13.5	8.0
'21	60.9	55.0	49.7	30.8	8.7
GAP	↓6.5	↓19.0	↓10.7	↓17.3	↓0.7

By social fields (11)*, general public, experts, and foreigners chose “political parties and legislation,” and business people and public officials chose “media” as the most corrupt area. At the same time, the cleanest field chosen by general public, business people, and experts was “education,” while foreigners and public officials chose “civic groups” and “administrative agencies,” respectively.

* Political parties and legislation, judicial field, administrative agencies, state owned companies, private companies, media, religious groups, civic groups, education, art and culture, labor unions and labor groups

<Level of Corruption by Social Fields (Corruption Perception Index)>

(Unit: point)

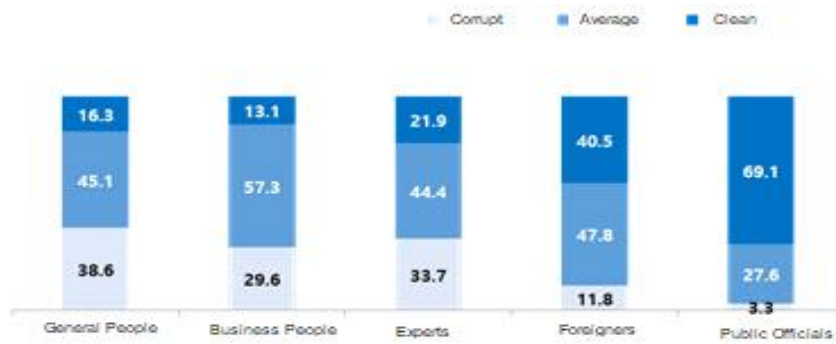
Response	General public	Business people	Experts	Foreigners	Public officials
Very Corrupt	Political parties and legislation (2.40)	Media (3.79)	Political parties and legislation (2.56)	Political parties and legislation (5.47)	Media (4.84)
Very Clean	Education (4.64)	Education (4.74)	Education (4.82)	Civic group (6.30)	Administrative agencies (6.64)

※ Corruption Perception Index: 5-point scale is converted into a scale of 10, and the higher the point is, the cleaner it is.

Perception of corruption level of public offices

As for the level of corruption in public offices, there was a large gap in corruption perception of public offices, where public officials accounted for 3.3% of the response — public officials are corrupt (Very corrupt + Relatively corrupt) — while general public accounted for 38.6%.

<Perception of Corruption Level of Public Offices in 2022>



Compared to the last year, every survey participant, except for public officials, had an improved perception — the public offices are corrupt — and that of business people, in particular, improved the most.

<Changes in the ratio of response - Public offices are “corrupt”>

(Unit: %, %p)

Year	General public	Business people	Experts	Foreigners	Public officials
'22	38.6	29.6	33.7	11.8	3.3
'21	49.8	63.8	44.9	29.8	2.9
GAP	↓11.2	↓34.2	↓11.2	↓18.0	↑0.4

By administrative fields (11)*, general public, experts, and public officials chose “housing and land” as the most corrupt area, while business people responded that “legal affairs” is the most corrupt area. Most of the survey participants chose “firefighting” as the cleanest field.

* Education, police, tax affairs, firefighting, military affairs and national defense, housing and land, legal affairs, health care, food hygiene, environment, and procurement

<Level of corruption by administrative fields (Corruption Perception Index)>

(Unit: point)

Response	General Public	Business People	Experts	Foreigners
Very corrupt	Housing and land (3.15)	Legal affairs (3.57)	Housing and land (3.00)	Housing and land (5.07)
Very clean	Firefighting (6.78)	Health care (5.39)	Firefighting (6.44)	Firefighting (7.27)

Experiences of corruption

0.4% (0.4% in 2021) of general public, 0.1% (8.6% in 2021) of business people, and 0.3% (2.5% in 2021) of foreigners experienced provision of money, goods, entertainment, etc. to public officials and the rate of experience among business people and foreigners dramatically decreased compared to the last year.

0.5% (0.7% in 2021) of general public, 0.1% (10.4% in 2021) of business people, and 0.5% (5.0% in 2021) of foreigners experienced improper solicitation directly or through a third party, which all sharply decreased compared to the last year.

Level of fairness in society

There was a gap in the perception of fairness where experts accounted for 52.1% of the response — society is “unfair (Very unfair + Relatively unfair)” — while public officials accounted for 16.4%.

<The ratio of response – “Unfair” >

(Unit: %, %p)

Response	General public	Business people	Experts	Foreigners	Public officials
Unfair	50.4(↓5.1)	32.0(↓29.3)	52.1(↓4.9)	19.5(↓15.8)	16.4(↓3.1)

Compared to the last year, the perception — society is “unfair” — improved among every survey participant, and that of business people, in particular, improved the most, with its response ratio dropping by 29.3%p.

Effectiveness of the government's anti-corruption policy implementation

Regarding the effectiveness of anti-corruption policy implementation by the government, the rate of response — not at all effective — decreased among every survey participant compared to the last year, which proves that the perception of effectiveness has improved.

<The ratio of response – what people actually think about the effectiveness of anti-corruption policy implementation>

(Unit: %, %p)

Response	General public	Business people	Experts	Foreigners	Public officials
Not at all effective	46.2(↓5.2)	25.4(↓16.1)	38.4(↓10.6)	16.2(↓9.8)	10.7(↓12.9)

ACRC Anti-Corruption Bureau Director General Han Sam-Seok said, “It turns out that positive perception of integrity and fairness spreads across society thanks to the implementation of various anti-corruption policies by the government. The ACRC will make efforts for the culture of integrity and fairness to further spread so that members of society could experience the first-hand changes in anti corruption.”

**ACRC Held Various Anti-Corruption Public Events for the Public
During the Anti-Corruption Weeks from Dec. 7th to 9th as Dec. 9th
Marked the UN's World Anti-Corruption Day**

*- The public events included integrity & fairness book concert,
integrity-themed musical and song challenge, etc.-*

(Dec. 7th, 2022, ACRC)

Anti-Corruption and Civil Rights Commission (ACRC, Chairperson Jeon Hyun-Heui) held a number of anti-corruption public events for three days from Dec. 7th to 9th as Dec. 9th marked the World Anti-Corruption Day designated by the UN.

The World Anti-Corruption Day has been designated by the UN to commemorate the signing ceremony for the United Nations Convention against Corruption on December 9th, 2003 in which more than 90 UN members including the Republic of Korea participated.

ACRC has designated days before and after the World Anti-Corruption Day as the Anti-Corruption Weeks every year and run off various events to spread a culture of anti-corruption and integrity throughout the society. This year, ACRC held various events mainly online via ACRC official YouTube channel “Gwon-ik Vision (which means vision for civil rights and interests),” etc. so that more citizens could join the events during the Anti-Corruption Weeks at anytime and anywhere.

From Dec. 7th, people watched “the integrity & fairness book concert” on YouTube channel “Gwon-ik Vision,” which provided an opportunity for people to have time to think about the value of integrity and fairness.

The integrity & fairness book concert consisted of two parts – in part I, the value of fairness was examined from various points of view and in part II, a shift in perspective on public whistleblowers were dealt with. In the afternoon on Dec. 8th, awards ceremony was held for the anti-corruption contents contest in which the public participated. ACRC selected fifty winning contents from a total of 1,907 contents which were entered and gave certificates of commendations and prize money of 49.8 million won to awardees.

In the afternoon on Dec. 9th, “Integrity Live: Conflicts of Interest Prevention Act Special” was aired to commemorate the 4th Public Interest Disclosure Day and the 1st anniversary of the implementation of the Act on Prevention of Conflict of Interest Related to Duties of Public Servants.

“Integrity Live” is a performance-based integrity education program provided by the Anti-Corruption Training Institute (ACTI) for people to understand anti-corruption and integrity in an easier and more friendly manner.

Through the Integrity Live program, ACRC provided an online lecture for easier understanding of the Conflict of Interest Prevention Act and presented a musical titled “As If It Is the First Time”, a musical performance about conflicts of interest taking place in public institutions. The performance was streamed online in real-time through “Gwon-ik Vision.”

In addition, an “Integrity-Themed Song SNS Challenge” campaign was carried out for people to sing together the song “the Most Normal Integrity Story”, the prize winner of the integrity contents contest of last year.

ACRC Chairperson Jeon Hyun-Heui said, “I hope people could enjoy opportunities to reflect upon the value of integrity and fairness by participating in various public events themed around integrity during the Anti-Corruption Week.”

**ACRC, Chose 5 Grand Award-Winning Works of
the “Public Integrity Content Contest,”
including “Mother’s Special Moving-in Notification”**

- *On December 8, various events, such as the screening of a sand art film, poetry reading by awardees, and congratulatory performance, were provided at the award ceremony -*
- *50 award-winning works were selected and 49.8 million won of prize money granted -*

(Dec. 8 2022, ACRC)

The Anti-Corruption Training Institute of the Anti-Corruption and Civil Rights Commission (ACRC, Chairperson Jeon Hyun-Heui) held the “2022 Public Integrity Content Contest” award ceremony on December 8 at 2 p.m. at Kobaco hall of KOBACO (Yangjae district, Seoul).

At the ceremony, a certificate of the award under the name of the Chairperson of ACRC and prize money of a total of 49.8 million won were presented for 50 award-winning works of each category.

The ACRC holds the “Public Integrity Content Contest” every year in order to raise and establish integrity awareness in society.

This year’s contest was held under the theme of “Looking for integrity in daily lives” from July 1 to October 4, and a total of 1,907 works in 5 categories, including scenario, poetry, video, song, and webtoon/poster/illustration, were submitted.

The ACRC selected 50 excellent works, 10 from each category, through

evaluation by external and internal evaluation committees and a referendum on various integrity content submitted by citizens.

※ 1 Grand award, 2 First awards, 3 Excellence awards, and 4 Encouragement awards for each category

The ceremony included various events that were live-streamed on “Vision of Rights,” the YouTube channel of the ACRC, including ▲ the screening of a sand art film titled “Mother’s special moving-in notification,” grand award-winning work among scenario, ▲ reading a poem titled “Voice of my heart,” grand award-winning work among poetry, ▲ congratulatory performance of a grand award-winning song titled “Love, Future, and Integrity.”

The Anti-Corruption Training Institute plans to actively utilize selected excellent works submitted by the people in integrity education for public officials and the general public.

The Institute plans to spread the culture of integrity across society by sharing award-winning works through various channels, such as YouTube, blogs, and websites, and producing secondary creations, such as a play based on the scenario.

ACRC Chairperson Jeon Hyun-Heui said, “Sharing ideas about integrity and putting them into practice in daily lives are imperative, which is our mission that we all should undertake. The ACRC will make efforts to further spread the culture of integrity through the Integrity Content Contest.”

ACRC Lays the Foundation for Integrity and Ethics Management with Experts from Legal and Economic Circles

- The Integrity and Ethics Compliance Program (K-CP) policy advisory group meeting was held in order to respond to corporate ESG and international anti-corruption standards -

(Dec. 22 2022, ACRC)

On December 22, the Anti-Corruption and Civil Rights Commission (ACRC, Chairperson Jeon Hyun-Heui) held a meeting with a policy advisory group consisting of experts from legal and economic circles in an effort to enhance the response to corporate ESG (Environmental, Social, and Governance) management and international anti-corruption standards, such as Foreign Corrupt Practices Act.

The meeting was the second round following the first one held in June, where 25 experts from legal and economic circles who participated in developing the Integrity & Ethics Compliance Program (K-CP) joined.

* **(Legal circle)** Members of Sentencing Guidelines Council, lawyers at Kim & Chang and bkl, etc. **(Economic organizations)** Korea Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Federation of Korean Industries, Korea Enterprises Federation, Korea Federation of Small and Medium Business, Korea International Trade Association, and Korea Venture Business Association

The ACRC focused on the fact that domestic discussion about Governance (G), a concept that includes anti-corruption, is mainly about governance, such as organizing a board of directors.

It seemed that businesses need to build a continuous and efficient compliance system in a preventive context to respond timely to ESG

management and international anti-corruption standards.

The ACRC also noted that the disclosure obligation of ESG has been reinforced under the Corporate Sustainability Report Directive (CSRD) of the European Union (EU), and “anti-corruption” is included among the 4 pillars (Trade, Supply chain, Clean economy, and Fair economy) adopted by Indo-Pacific Economic Framework (IPEF) launched in May.

Accordingly, the ACRC held an advisory group meeting to implement response measures for corporate ESG management and strengthening international anti-corruption standards.

At the meeting, the ACRC shared progress and future plans of support policies regarding integrity and ethics management for the public sector and private sector separately, such as organizing an economic organization consultative group.

Then the Commission listened to various opinions of experts and stakeholders and discussed response measures for businesses with focus on matters that are necessarily applied to businesses internationally, such as disclosure standards and foreign anti-corruption laws.

The ACRC plans to actively support integrity and ethics management for business by supplementing operation measures for K-CP* based on opinions collected at the policy advisory group meeting and promoting the development of guidelines for business.

K-CP (Integrity & Ethics Compliance Program)

A series of systems and activities that enable fostering a culture of integrity and ethics management, including minimizing corruption risks that could be found in management activities and compliance with anti-corruption law. The ACRC introduced the program last year pursuant to the ACRC Act in order to increase the national integrity level and strengthen the response ability for ESG of state-owned companies and international anti-corruption standards.

ACRC Chairperson Jeon Hyun-Heui said, “As the national status of Korea has elevated, it is necessary to respond actively to corporate ESG management and strengthened international anti-corruption standards. The ACRC will implement K-CP tailored to businesses by extensively collecting opinions of economic organizations and businesses and actively support the voluntary practice of integrity and ethics management.”

ACRC Asking the People about “2023 Priority Tasks of Policy and Institutional Improvement”

-A referendum was initiated on December 29 through

“People’s Idea Box” -

(Dec. 29 2022, ACRC)

Among 2023 policy and institutional improvement tasks found based on complaints and public suggestions submitted to e-People, those chosen by citizens are implemented as a matter of priority.

The Anti-Corruption and Civil Rights Commission (ACRC, Chairperson Jeon Hyun-Heui) initiated a referendum on December 29 through “People’s Idea Box,” a public participation platform, and will select policy and institutional improvement tasks that would be primarily carried out next year.

For next year, the ACRC plans to focus on improving preemptively unreasonable practices and alliances, including the establishment cartel and preferential treatment in public offices, and preventing the leakage in public financial support and execution so that policy funds for economic recovery and strengthening social safety net are used properly.

In addition, the ACRC plans to mitigate risk factors of people’s safety in order to minimize damage on citizens done by natural or social disaster and continuously discover and improve factors of unreasonable burden on the people or cases of marginalization and unfairness regarding the youth in blind spot and vulnerable people, such as the elderly and people with disabilities.

To this end, the ACRC selects priority tasks by conducting a referendum through People's Idea Box and provides small gifts to participants of the referendum chosen by a draw.

Moreover, the Commission plans to receive policy suggestions that mitigate inconvenience and irrationality in daily lives, finalize the selection of institutional improvement tasks among the suggestions following review by experts and a referendum, and award the best idea person.

The ACRC operates channels for digital policy communication, such as e-People, 110 call center, and People's Idea Box, where about 20 million cases per year are submitted so that the voices of people can be heard directly.

This enables people to suggest or seeking fundamental solutions for inconveniences, which could be reflected in policies.

Over the past 5 years, in particular, unfairness experienced by the people in daily lives were resolved and unreasonable practices that had been left in public offices were improved.

Recently the ACRC made efforts to resolve difficulties in people's livelihood economy induced by COVID-19 and minimize people's inconveniences in vulnerable areas that inflict social conflicts.

The ACRC made a total of 240 institutional improvement suggestions from 2018 till this year, and the acceptance rate of such suggestions among institutions amounted to 98%.

ACRC Chairperson Jeon Hyun-Heui said, “In order for policy and institutional improvement to indeed change people’s lives, it is important to listen to the voices of people and reflect them from the stage of discovering tasks. The ACRC will continue to pay more attention to people’s inconveniences through People’s Idea Box and actively communicate with citizens from start to end of institutional improvement.”