

ACRC Korea Transparency Newsletter (July 2026)

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Sharing the Achievements of a Decade of Cross-Border Anti-Corruption Cooperation, and the Future Ahead

- *ACRC and UNDP co-hosted the “International Anti-Corruption Forum” by compiling the concrete achievements of over a decade of anti-corruption technical assistance*
- *Discussions on next-generation anti-corruption strategies in response to a rapidly changing global policy environment, including the increasing use of artificial intelligence (AI)*

(July 1, 2026, ACRC)

The Anti-Corruption and Civil Rights Commission (ACRC, Chairperson Jung Il-yeon) co-hosted the International Anti-Corruption Forum: A Decade of Partnership, A Future of Integrity with the UNDP Seoul Policy Centre (Director Anne Juepner) at the Lotte Hotel Seoul for two days, from July 2 to 3.

The Forum was organized to compile the concrete achievements of the anti-corruption technical assistance* jointly pursued by the ACRC and UNDP over the past decade, and to explore the direction of sustainable anti-corruption strategies and integrity governance amid a rapidly changing global environment, including the mainstreaming of artificial intelligence (AI).

* Anti-Corruption Technical Assistance (SDG Partnership Programme): A programme initiated upon the signing of an MOU between the ACRC and UNDP in 2015, which supports the localization and application of Korea’s anti-corruption institutions and systems in developing countries through technical advisory, policy consulting, and capacity-building.

Through the anti-corruption technical assistance programme, the ACRC has transferred representative anti-corruption institutions and systems – including the Comprehensive Integrity Efforts Assessment of Public Institutions, the Corruption Risk Assessment, the Clean Portal (a digital corruption and public interest infringement reporting system), and the Whistleblower Protection and Reward System – to a total of 14 countries*.

* 14 countries: (Africa) Algeria, Zambia; (Asia) Malaysia, Mongolia, Myanmar, Viet Nam, Sri Lanka, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan; (Europe) Kosovo, Montenegro; (Oceania) Tonga, Vanuatu; (Latin America) Columbia

The partner countries of the programme have commonly achieved substantive anti-corruption governance reform outcomes, including: the advancement of anti-corruption legislation, the expansion of anti-corruption institutions and training, and the strengthening of international anti-corruption solidarity.

No.	Country	Outcomes
1	Viet Nam	Developed the Provincial Anti-Corruption Assessment Index (PACA) based on Korea's Integrity Efforts Assessment (IEA), reflected it in anti-corruption legislation, and implemented it nationwide
2	Uzbekistan	Reflected the IEA and Clean Portal in anti-corruption legislation, built the corruption reporting system (E-Anticor.uz), and shared the achievements with Tajikistan and other neighboring partner countries
3	Malaysia	Reflected the IEA in the national anti-corruption strategy, use it as the foundation for the Malaysian Governance Index which is currently under development
4	Algeria	Developed and implemented the integrity performance index (NAZAHA) based on the IEA, reflected it in the national anti-corruption strategy, and is developing an action plan to support follow-up measures
5	Montenegro	Used the IEA to derive improvement recommendations through sector-specific assessment report (Integrity in Action), amended anti-corruption legislation on that basis, and shared this experience at the UNCAC Conference of State Parties, to which 192 states parties are signatories
6	Sri Lanka	Reflected the IEA in the national anti-corruption strategy, mandated the establishment of dedicated Integrity Assessment Unit (IAU), and expanded related training
7	Myanmar	Applied the Corruption Risk Assessment (CRA) methodology in the process of enacting major legislation, including the National Land Law
8	Kosovo*	Reflected the CRA in anti-corruption legislation and amended the Law on Prevention of Conflict of Interest and the Law on Assets and Income Declarations based on identified corruption elements Introduced the Clean Portal, through which 92% of national corruption reports are now received
9	Columbia	Reflected the CRA in regional anti-corruption strategies, developed a system for visually identifying corruption risk factors in legislation, and shared it with Mexico and other neighboring partner countries
10	Mongolia	Consolidated corruption report intake channels based on the Clean Portal-inspired model, expanded counseling staff, reducing average response times by 23% and duplicate submission by 30%

* All references to Kosovo shall be understood to be in the context of the United Nations Security Council Resolution 1244 (1999.)

※ Tajikistan, Zambia, Tonga, and Vanuatu are currently under implementation (2026-)

The anti-corruption technical assistance programme of the ACRC has successfully shared Korea's anti-corruption institutions and systems in developing countries, driving substantive governance reforms in each country. It has evolved beyond a mere exchange of knowledge into a dynamic learning network in which the successful experience of one country spreads as a policy solution for others.

The Republic of Korea has also achieved steady improvements in its Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI) as a result of its ongoing anti-corruption reform efforts.

* (2016) 52nd (out of 180 countries) → (2025) 31st (out of 182 countries)

A total of 17 countries participated in the Forum, with a diverse range of domestic and international anti-corruption experts, including anti-corruption agencies of partner countries, international organizations such as UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and the World Bank (WB), as well as government officials, academics, civil society organizations, and private sector representatives.

At the opening ceremony held on July 2, opening remarks by ACRC Chairperson Jung Il-yeon and UNDP Seoul Policy Centre Anne Juepner were delivered. After the opening remarks, Congratulatory addresses by high-level speakers – including National Assembly Speaker Cho Jeong-sik, Second Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs Kim Jina, UNDP Administrator Alexander De Croo, and Former UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon – were also delivered, followed by keynote speeches by Former Chairperson of the ACRC Kim Young-ran and Doctor Daniel Kaufmann*, President Emeritus of the National Resource Governance Institute.

* An economist and expert in governance and anti-corruption who devised the Worldwide Governance Indicators (WGI), an index for measuring and comparing the level of governance across countries.

Following the opening ceremony, sessions themed “Global Progress, Partnerships and Institutional Change,” covering three topics – “Milestones in integrity: Global achievements and lessons learned”, “Transforming governance: From legal frameworks to institutional changes”, and “Private sector integrity: Moving

beyond compliance to inclusive growth” were conducted.

On July 3, the final day of the Forum, in-depth discussions continued under the theme “Emerging Challenges, Inclusive Ecosystems and Future Action,” addressing “Harnessing AI and digital technologies: Opportunities and safeguards for transparent and accountable governance” and “From commitment to action: Joint reflections and recommendation.”

The Forum was also live-streamed in real time through the ACRC’s official YouTube channel, accessible to the general public.

ACRC Chairperson Jung Il-yeon stated: “Corruption today is becoming a challenge that is difficult to address through the efforts of any single country. Countries can respond more effectively when they share their experiences and cooperate with one another.”

He further added, “The International Anti-Corruption Forum will go beyond sharing the achievements of the ACRC and UNDP, and will serve as a platform for international cooperation where governments, international organizations, and the private sector jointly discuss next-generation anti-corruption strategies and explore concrete measures for collaboration.”

‘Korea-UNDP International Anti-Corruption Forum’ charts future global anti-corruption strategies

- *ACRC and UNDP successfully conclude ‘Korea-UNDP International Anti-Corruption Forum’, convening anti-corruption experts from partner countries of the ‘SDG Partnerships’ programme, international organizations, civil society, the private sector, and academia*
- *Forum highlights the impact of Korea’s anti-corruption technical cooperation efforts and the strengths of Korea’s anti-corruption model, while charting next-generation anti-corruption strategies for a rapidly changing global policy environment*

(July 3, 2026, ACRC)

The Anti-Corruption and Civil Rights Commission (Chairperson Jung Il-yeon, hereafter “ACRC”) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Seoul Policy Centre (Director Anne Juepner) jointly held the “Korea-UNDP International Anti-Corruption Forum” over two days, from 2 to 3 July.

Participating global experts and anti-corruption practitioners highlighted the achievements of countries that learned from and localized the Republic of Korea’s anti-corruption policies and systems through the ‘SDG Partnership’ anti-corruption technical cooperation Project programme* led by ACRC and UNDP, and discussed the direction and vision for sustainable anti-corruption strategies and integrity governance amid a rapidly changing global environment.

* ‘SDG Partnerships programme’ anti-corruption technical cooperation programme: A UNDP programme jointly carried out with ACRC since the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) in 2015, and supported by Korea’s Ministry of Foreign Affairs. It provides technical advisory services, policy consulting, and capacity-building to help developing countries localize and apply Korea’s anti-corruption systems.

The participants identified five next-generation anti-corruption strategies to serve as a milestone for each country’s anti-corruption efforts: moving from initial reforms to deep institutionalization, accelerating and scaling progress through peer-learning and South-South and Triangular Cooperation* (SSTC), harnessing AI and digital innovations with robust, trust-building safeguards,

building inclusive integrity ecosystems to leave no one behind, and strengthening partnerships for sustainable impact.

* South-South and Triangular Cooperation (SSTC): A cooperation framework in which a third party — such as a developed country or international organization — provides funding, technology, and know-how to promote cooperation among developing countries, thereby enhancing effective and sustainable cooperation.

Building on the strategies drawn from this event, ACRC and UNDP reaffirmed their commitment to serve as a powerful global catalyst for transparency, accountability, and sustainable development.

Held over two days, the event addressed cross-cutting anti-corruption efforts in depth — from building solid legal foundations and embracing digital innovation to promoting ethical business practices in the private sector — and served as a forum for South-South cooperation and exchange.

At the opening ceremony held on 2 July, ACRC Chairperson Jung Il-yeon stated that “our cooperation, which began as knowledge exchange, has evolved into a dynamic learning network in which one success story spreads to become a solution for other countries,” emphasizing the potential for global expansion of ACRC’s technical cooperation with UNDP under the SDG Partnership programme.

Former ACRC Chairperson Kim Young-ran, who made a significant contribution to the legislative process of Korea’s Improper Solicitation and Graft Act, delivered a powerful keynote message that “integrity is not a luxury afforded to advanced countries, but an indispensable condition for becoming one,” stressing that sustainable growth is only possible on a foundation of transparency and public trust.

Participating countries vividly demonstrated how Korea’s anti-corruption model and technical cooperation framework are being applied on the ground.

Montenegro, which has adopted the Comprehensive Integrity Assessment of public institutions, highlighted the role of integrity managers as key agents of change, while Sri Lanka placed the institutionalization of Internal Affairs Units

at the center of its integrity assessment system. Uzbekistan, which introduced the Clean Portal, demonstrated that digital tools are most effective when backed by institutional reform.

Tajikistan is introducing a whistleblower protection and reward system, inspired by Uzbekistan's experience of adopting a comprehensive Korea-inspired anti-corruption model combining both the Clean Portal and the Comprehensive Integrity Assessment of public institutions, and taking a systematic approach to corruption prevention and whistleblower protection alike.

A range of stakeholders — including national anti-corruption agencies, private companies, civil society organizations, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), and the World Bank Group — engaged in active discussion on the need to promote diverse partnerships to combat corruption and on strategies for responding to digital transformation in building clean governance.

Furthermore, governance expert Dr. Daniel Kaufmann*, Co-founder and President Emeritus of the Natural Resource Governance Institute, reiterated the importance of the ACRC and UNDP's role in the SDG Partnership Programme against the backdrop of an evolving anti-corruption and institutional reform landscape.

* An economist and expert in governance and anti-corruption who devised the Worldwide Governance Indicators (WGI), which quantify countries' institutional quality.

Dr. Anne Juepner, Director of the UNDP Seoul Policy Centre stated, "We remain committed to strengthening the SDG Partnerships programme as a platform for cooperation, knowledge exchange, and practical solutions that respond to countries' priorities and needs."

ACRC Chairperson Jung Il-yeon stated, "Building on the discussions and strategies that emerged from this forum, we will do our utmost to support partner countries' substantive efforts to combat corruption and to help Korea move forward as a global leader in the fight against corruption."

Civil Petition Delayed by Silos between the Public Institutions — Now Addressed Through the “Citizen’s Active Administration Application” System

- *ACRC actively coordinated to reach agreement on a petition regarding road-damage compensation filed through the Citizen’s Active Administration Application system on July 14*
- *When delayed due to unclear responsibility for petition handling, inter-agency coordination will immediately begin*

(July 28, 2026, ACRC)

The Anti-Corruption and Civil Rights Commission (ACRC, Chairperson Jung Il-yeon) drew agreement on complex civil petitions that were filed through its “Citizen’s Active Administration Application” and which had stalled because multiple administrative agencies were involved, by actively coordinating among the agencies.

- * Citizen’s Active Administration Application System: A system through which a petitioner may ask the head of the competent administrative agency to actively handle a matter by making use of active-administration support mechanisms (such as review by an audit institution). The ACRC reviews such requests and puts forward recommendations for improvement of the current situation to the competent agency. Applications can be filed through the e-People portal or the ACRC website.

The first resolved petition was filed by a driver whose vehicle wheel was damaged by a traffic delineator on a road near Gwacheon Citizens’ Plaza in Gwacheon, Gyeonggi Province.

When damage is caused by a facility belong to the government while driving, compensation should be provided by the central or local government concerned. In this case, however, responsibility for managing the road was unclear between the Government Employees Pension Service (GEPS), which owns the road, and the Gwacheon Government Complex Management Office and the City of Gwacheon, which occupy and use it. As a result, disputes over the responsibility arose five times, and processing of the petitioner’s compensation claim was delayed for an extended period.

Judging that the public should no longer have to bear the burden of inconvenience caused by disagreements between public institutions, the ACRC actively coordinated the case with officials from the relevant agencies. After extensive discussion, the City of Gwacheon and the Gwacheon Government Complex Management Office agreed to promptly proceed with compensation procedures.

The second case resolved through the Citizen's Active Administration Application concerned property damage suffered by residents nearby the railway land along the Gyeongui Line in Goyang, Gyeonggi Province, due to trees left around the land. Large acacia trees near the railway land caused fences to collapse and damaged the walls of private property, requiring urgent action. Action was delayed because the relevant regulations on the scope and authority of railway facility maintenance were unclear.

The ACRC confirmed the background of the petition and coordinated actively, by requesting cooperation from the relevant agencies. The Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport, the Korea Railroad Corporation, and the National Railway Administration convened an emergency meeting and agreed to remove the trees by August of this year and to revise the Landscaping Facility Management Guidelines to clearly define the scope of tree management in the next maintenance and management contract.

With these cases, the ACRC has decided to devise measures for swift handling of civil petitions — such as immediate inter-agency coordination whenever petition processing is delayed due to the unclear division of responsibility among the relevant agencies.

Secretary General of the ACRC Han Samsuk stated, "Close communication and cooperation are significantly important for petitions involving multiple administrative agencies." He added, "The ACRC will continue to faithfully fulfill its role as the 'control tower for active administration,' resolving problems from the public's perspective by dismantling the silos between institutions through active coordination."

Seeking Solutions to Collective Conflict over Power Generation Facility Construction — Together with Government, Academia, and Environmental Groups

- *ACRC discussed resolution of collective petitions at the 2026 Korean Association for Conflict Studies Summer Academic Conference*
- *Presented ways of shifting collective petition handling from “reactive management” to “preemptive prevention and early intervention”*

(July 9, 2026, ACRC)

The Anti-Corruption and Civil Rights Commission (ACRC, Chairperson Jung Il-yeon) co-hosted the “2026 Korean Association for Conflict Studies Summer Academic Conference” on July 9 at the Korea Institute of Energy Technology (KENTECH) in Naju, Jeonnam-Gwangju Special Self-Governing City, to discuss a government-wide paradigm shift for resolving collective petitions.

The conference was organized by the Korean Association for Conflict Studies, co-hosted by the Association, the ACRC, the Office for Government Policy Coordination, and the Korea Electric Power Corporation (KEPCO), among others. Held under the theme “Energy Governance and Regional Coexistence in the Age of AI and Energy Transition: Power Grid Conflicts and Social Consensus,” the event brought together 150 participants from academia, relevant ministries, and conflict-management experts.

The conference was organized to seek preemptive solutions to the social conflict due to the expansion of the artificial intelligence industry and the transformation of advanced industrial structures. Since the industrial changes require a surge in electricity demand, newly constructed power transmission and transformation facilities and power generation facilities often lead to resident opposition and social conflict.

The ACRC jointly held a dedicated session titled “Resolving Collective Petitions and Institutionalizing Social Mediation.” The session featured in-depth discussion of ways to institutionalize a shift from conflict management centered

on reactive management toward preemptive prevention and early intervention.

The first presentation introduced a new, multifaceted approach — drawing an analogy to the structure of HBM (High Bandwidth Memory) semiconductors — for addressing multilayered collective conflicts with overlapping interests through negotiation, bargaining, and mediation. It also highlighted the need to introduce a “government-wide joint responsibility structure,” which enables early intervention of relevant agencies when collective conflict is anticipated, to minimize the overall cost to society.

The second presentation contributed to strengthening conflict-management capacity, by sharing research on conflict type analysis and the effectiveness of mediation, drawn from the ACRC’s various collective petition mediation cases.

In addition, a special comprehensive panel discussion in the afternoon brought together experts from relevant agencies — including the Ministry of Climate, Energy and Environment and KEPCO — as well as environmental groups, discussing practical and mutually beneficial approaches to resolve conflicts over power grid expansion.

In a written congratulatory address, Chairperson Jung stated, “The ACRC is responsibly leading mediation that reconciles complex interests so that all stakeholders can benefit, through the Collective Conflict Mediation Bureau established earlier this year.” He added, “I hope this conference will serve as an opportunity for the expertise of academia and the experience of practitioners to converge closely, helping our society advance toward a more mature, trust-based society.”

Protecting the Rights and Interests of Vulnerable Groups — Welfare and Civil Petition Officials Came Together to Strengthen Their Capacity

- *ACRC held group training on Jul. 15th to strengthen government officials' capacity to protect the rights and interests of vulnerable groups*
- *Officials in charge of grievance petitions and social welfare from central and local governments participated, laying the foundation for cooperation on rights protection*

(Jul. 15, 2026, ACRC)

The Anti-Corruption and Civil Rights Commission (ACRC, Chairperson Jung Il-yeon) held “Group Training to Strengthen Capacity on Grievance Petition Handling for the Protection of Vulnerable Groups’ Rights and Interests” on July 15 at the Daejeon Youth WeCan Center.

The training was organized to protect vulnerable groups who, despite the continued expansion of the welfare system, have limited access to information and difficulty expressing their need for support, and therefore require active rights protection. Approximately 300 people participated, including grievance petition officials from the central government, local governments and metropolitan and provincial offices of education nationwide, as well as members of Local Ombudsman.

There have been recurring, regrettable cases in which citizens in urgent need of help have fallen through the cracks of the welfare system, unable to even request the support they need.

Against this backdrop, the ACRC organized the training so that front-line officials — who are the first to encounter the difficulties faced by vulnerable groups — can ensure that these difficulties are not overlooked and are properly connected to rights-protection systems.

Therefore, the social welfare officials who directly counsel, receive, and process

petitions from vulnerable groups were included in the training, alongside the government officials who are in charge of grievance petitions.

This was to ensure that difficulties raised by vulnerable groups in the field to be naturally connected to the grievance petition resolution system, thereby establishing a tightly integrated response system that channels vulnerable groups toward rights protection no matter which platform they approach.

For this, central government officials participated in this joint training session as the ACRC sought to lay the foundation of cooperation on rights protection spanning both the central and local levels.

Since grievance petitions from vulnerable groups often require the responsibilities of multiple agencies, sharing common standards for handling such petitions between central and local governments is expected to help reduce administrative blind spots.

The training consisted of three parts: the definition of vulnerable groups and the need to support them; an explanation of the grievance petition handling system and response techniques; and presentations of best practices by institutions.

An expert from the Korea Institute for Health and Social Affairs (KIHASA) also presented research findings on the current status of vulnerable groups and the need to support them, and best-practices of successfully resolved grievance petitions involving vulnerable groups so that participants can directly apply them in the field.

ACRC Chairperson Jung Il-yeon stated, “Protecting the rights and interests of vulnerable groups depends on the capacity of the officials who are the first to encounter their petitions on the field.” He added, “The ACRC will continue to provide active support to ensure that citizens most in need of help are not left out of rights protection systems.”