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- Chairperson Jeon Hyun-heui gave a special lecture on the Act on the Prevention of Conflict of Interest in Public Office to the employees of CIO after signing an MoU

▷ **ACRC to Introduce Conflict of Interest Prevention Act and Clean Portal at APEC Meeting**

- ACRC made a presentation at a workshop organized by the host country (15th) and ACTWG meeting (17th) with a presence of global anti-corruption experts

▷ **ACRC, Protector of Citizens, to Resolve Difficulties of Foreign Companies Operating in Korea**

- ACRC visited CanCham Korea to listen difficulties of foreign companies and discuss ways to resolve them

▷ **Standing on the Side of Citizens, the ACRC Hosted a Forum on Ways to Develop Administrative Appeals System for Stronger Protection of Citizens' Rights and Interests**

- The ACRC hosted a forum with experts from various fields, including academia and legal circles to discuss about future direction of program operation

## **ACRC-TI Korea-KACS Discussed Anti-Corruption Strategy to Make It into the World's Top 20 in CPI**

- An Open Forum was Jointly Held to Discuss Ways to Improve CPI on Feb. 10 -



Open Forum for improving CPI on Feb. 10th at the Korea Press Center

(10th Feb. 2022, ACRC)

An open forum was held to discuss the future of anti-corruption strategies to take a leap forward into the world's top 20 in the Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI).

The Forum on Improving CPI hosted by the Anti-Corruption and Civil Rights Commission (ACRC, Chairperson Jeon Hyun-Heui) was jointly held by Transparency International-Korea (Co-president Lee Sang-Hak, currently resigned) and the Korean Association for Corruption Studies (President Cho Jae-Hyun) on Feb. 10, 2022 at the Korea Press Center.

Panels at this forum conducted discussions and gave presentations on the way forward on anti-corruption strategies and future tasks, making analysis of the result of the 2021 CPI.

The moderator of the forum was Moon Hyoung-Koo, an ambassador for anti-corruption affairs and professor emeritus of Korea University Business School, and the presenters were Lee Sang-Hak, a co-president of TI-Korea, and Lee Jeong-Joo, an editorial director of KACS.

The co-president of TI-Korea Lee Sang-Hak said, “Korea has ranked 32nd out of 180 countries, scoring 62 points in the 2021 CPI. With its score up 8 points for the last five years since 2017, Korea improved in CPI the most quickly among OECD members, ranking 4th in the improvement rate,” adding that “the most noticeable feature of the 2021 CPI result is that Korea has shown steady improvements in the political and economic indicators, while still lagging behind in some other indicators. It is likely that fairness controversies surrounding the upper classes including politicians, corruption in public institutions such as Land and Housing Corp(LH), and corrupt and unfair practices in the Korean society at large prevent us from rising in the Index.”

The editorial director of KACS Lee Jeong-Joo said, “Korea has risen consistently in the Index since 2017, showing the greatest improvement among the OECD members, but we have to consider that transparency in the Korean society as a whole has scored below 80 points and that Korea’s performance on CPI is relatively poor compared to its economic status.”

In addition, to maintain the upward trend, she suggested: transforming the traditional framework of anti-corruption policies to include ‘Proactive Governance’ in which public officials carry out their duties faithfully in the interest of citizens; changing the corruption control system currently centering on detection and punishment into the one

that focuses more on the value of integrity; restructuring the pan-government anti-corruption policy functions; and strengthening the status of ACRC as a national corruption control tower.

Discussants of the forum were Seung Jae-Hyun, a senior researcher of Korean Institute of Criminology and Justice, Park Se-Hun, a senior researcher of Korea Legislation Research Institute, Kim Ae-Jin, a professor of public administration department of Gyeongsang National University, Kim Mi-Kyeong, a financial editor of Seoul Shinmun, Lee Eun-Kyeong, a director of UN Global Compact Korea Network, and Yoon Soon-Cheol, a head of Citizen's Coalition for Economic Justice.

Seung Jae-Hyun, a senior researcher of Korean Institute of Criminology and Justice, said, "It is necessary to restructure five corruption-related laws and integrate the management through unifying functions of public ethics."

Kim Ae-Jin, a professor of public administration department of Gyeongsang National University, said, "It is necessary to seek ways to promote integrity policy in primary local authorities, given the result of Integrity Assessment of Public Institutions conducted by the ACRC which reveals high rate of fairness-hindering work order experience therein."

Kim Mi-Kyeong, a financial editor of Seoul Shinmun said, "the role of media is also important. The media's role as an objective and critical corruption watchdog should be more strengthened since corruption incidents may not be even perceived if the media does not actively cover it."

Yoon Sun-Cheol, a head of Citizen’s Coalition for Economic Justice said, “When the government implements anti-corruption and integrity policies, it should consider consistency of principles, policy sustainability, establishment of regular implementation system the effectiveness of which is continuously monitored, and how people feel. And the role of civil society should be more expanded.”

The co-president of TI-Korea Lee Sang-Hak said, “the forum was very important and meaningful to take stock of what we have done as Korea’s CPI improved fast for the past five years and to discuss the way forward on the future anti-corruption policies.”

The ACRC Chairperson Jeon Hyun-Heui said, “I hope this forum will serve as an opportunity to reflect on the anti-corruption policy achievements we have made so far and to design the future of anti-corruption and integrity policy, in order to take a leap forward as an integrity advanced nation ranked in the world’s top 20.”

## **Public-Private Consultative Council for Transparent Society : “Corruption Perception Index of Korea is Record High. More Efforts Are Needed to Eliminate Corruption in the Public and Private Sector”**

- ‘The 1<sup>st</sup> Public-Private Consultative Council for Transparent Society in 2022’ was held to discuss follow-up measures for the latest CPI -



The 1st Public-Private Consultative Council for Transparent Society held in 2022 on Feb. 10th at Korea Press Center

(10th Feb. 2022, ACRC)

Public-Private Consultative Council for Transparent Society (Council, co-chairs: Co-Representative Chul Young Shin of Citizens’ Coalition for Economic Justice and Chairperson Jeon Hyun-Heui of Anti-Corruption and Civil Rights Commission) hosted the first council meeting in 2022 at Korea Press Center on 10<sup>th</sup> February and discussed follow-up measures for the announced Corruption Perception Index (CPI) of 2021.

\* Corruption Perception Index (CPI) is one of representative international anti-corruption indices. With the CPI, Transparency International has evaluated countries for their level of corruption in the public and political sectors annually since 1995.

## < Overview of Public-Private Consultative Council for Transparency Society >

- Based on the Regulation on Establishment and Operation of the Public-Private Consultative Council for Transparent Society (the Ordinance of the Prime Minister), the council was established in 2018. It is a public-private consultative body jointly participated by representatives\* of different sectors in the Korean society to identify key anti-corruption challenges and present the direction of development.

\* It was participated by representatives of 37 organizations and institutes, including 9 civil society organizations, such as People's Solidarity for Participatory Democracy, Citizens' Coalition for Economic Justice, and Transparency International Korea; 6 economic organizations, such as Korea Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Korea Enterprises Federation, and Korea Federation of SMEs; 6 professional associations, such as Korean Bar Association and the Institute of Internal Auditors Korea; 8 media and academic organizations, such as Korea Broadcasters Association and Korean Association of Newspapers; and 4 public organizations, such as Metropolitan and Provincial Council Chairs Association of Korea and Governors Association of Korea.

Korea ranked 32<sup>nd</sup> among 180 countries in the 2021 Corruption Perception Index (CPI) with an all-time high score of 62 points out of 100, continuing its upward trend\* for five years in a row.

\* 51<sup>st</sup> place in 2017 (54 points) → 45<sup>th</sup> place in 2018 (57 points) → 39<sup>th</sup> place in 2019 (59 points) → 33<sup>rd</sup> place in 2020 (61 points)

The participants in the meeting pointed out that this upward trend was made possible thanks to 1) swift improvement of behavioral norm in the public sector by establishing the Act on the Prevention of Conflicts of Interest related to Duties of Public Servants; 2) pan-governmental efforts to eradicate privilege and foul play in the society through complete investigation of real estate owned by the members of the National Assembly; and 3) cooperation between citizens and the government to overcome COVID-19.

Nevertheless, the council remind us that the outcome is not good enough considering the level of economic development and international standing of Korea, even though the all-time high score in the Corruption Perception Index is noteworthy.

Specifically, out of other source data, in the IMD World Competitiveness Yearbook<sup>\*</sup>, Korea had shown upward trend for three years. But this year, the score dropped to 53 points which is 10.2 points lower than the OECD average of 63.2 points. The participants in the council agreed that in order to become a full-fledged advanced country in anti-corruption, Korea needs to make efforts to minimize the factors contributing to corruption in the public sector.

\* IMD World Competitiveness Yearbook: a data source that indicates the existence of bribery and corruption (released by International Institute for Management Development, IMD)

· 50 points (2018) → 54 points (2019) → 57 points (2020) → 53 points (2021, OECD average: 63.2 points)

Also, when it comes to World Economic Forum Executive Opinion Survey (WEF EOS)<sup>\*</sup> that indicates corruption in business, Korea made a turnaround this year after three years of downward trend. However, it was only 61 points which is 2.9 points lower than the OECD average of 63.9 points. As such, the participants reached a consensus that there should be systemization for transparent and ethical business management practice.

\* WEF EOS: a data source that indicates the level of undocumented extra payments or bribe connected with imports and exports, awarding of public contracts or obtaining favourable judicial decisions; or the level of the diversion of public funds (released by World Economic Forum)

- 56 points (2018) → 55 points (2019) → 54 points (2020) → 61 points (2021, OECD average: 63.9 points)

The council stated, “in order to improve the Corruption Perception Index of Korea further more in the future, we need even more efforts of the Anti-Corruption and Civil Rights Commission and cooperation between the public and private sectors.”

**ACRC Distributed Operational Guideline for  
Conflict of Interest Prevention Act  
to Help Public Organizations Lay a Foundation for  
Law Enforcement Before Effectuation of the Act**

*- Approx. 14,900 public organizations should establish detailed rules and procedures for receipt and handling of reports, etc. and appoint officers in charge of conflict-of-interest prevention affairs -*

(18th Feb. 2022, ACRC)

Approximately 14,900 public organizations subject to the Act on the Prevention of Conflict of Interest Related to Duties of Public Servants (hereinafter the Conflict of Interest Prevention Act) including constitutional institutions, central administrative institutions and local governments should lay a foundation for the enforcement of the Act, including preparing their respective operational guidelines and designating officers in charge of conflict-of-interest prevention prior to the entry into force of the Act on May 19, 2022.

The Operational Guideline for the Conflict of Interest Prevention Act was approved by the Whole Committee of the Anti-Corruption and Civil Rights Commission (ACRC, Chairperson Jeon Hyun-Heui) on Feb. 14 and distributed to about 14,900 public organizations.

The guideline contains all matters necessary for the enforcement of the Conflict of Interest Prevention Act that comes into force on May 19. First of all, the guideline provides various forms needed for public officials meeting their obligation of report under the Act including

reporting privately interested persons, ownership/purchase of public duty-related real estate and transactions with duty-related persons and sets out detailed procedures for the receipt and handling of violation reports, etc.

The guideline also provides details necessary for carrying out public officials' obligations and managing restricted or prohibited acts under the Act, such as designating a delegate and transferring of public officials for fair performance of duty, restricting the employment of, and signing private contracts with, family members of high-ranking officials, etc.

The ACRC has established an online standard reporting system for the Conflict of Interest Prevention Act in order to handle all procedures online, including public officials' reports, public organizations' receipt and handling of reports, citizens' reports on violations of the Act.

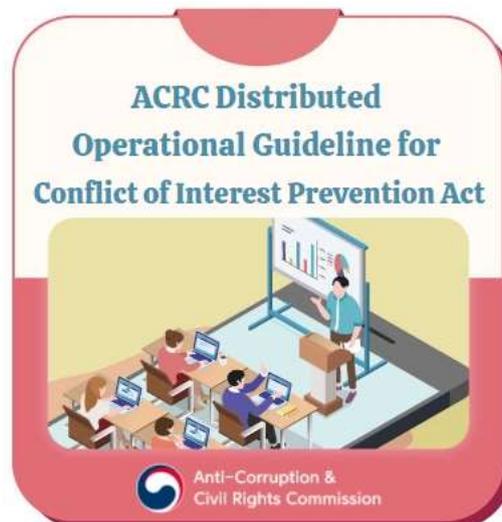
The ACRC plans to distribute the operational guideline for the Conflict of Interest Prevention Act (the standard draft) to approximately 14,900 public organizations subject to the Conflict of Interest Prevention Act on Feb. 18. Accordingly, each organization should lay a basis for the implementation of the Act before it comes into force, including drawing up their own operational guideline based on their respective institutional characters and designating conflict-of-interest officials.

In the meantime, the Whole Committee of the ACRC passed the amended Code of Conduct for Public Officials that deleted provisions related to the Conflict of Interest Prevention Act to prevent any possible confusion that may occur due to overlapping provisions when the Conflict of Interest Prevention Act comes into force.

The ACRC has actively delivered face-to-face/untact lectures on the Conflict of Interest Prevention Act to public organizations since the enactment of the Act so that about two million public officials subject to the Act would not have any difficulties in fulfilling 10 duties pursuant to the Act.

In April this year, the ACRC will produce a handbook containing statutory interpretation standard and frequently asked questions, etc. to be distributed to each public organization and hold information sessions differentiated by type of institutions by region. In addition, the ACRC will support public institutions' self-education through education programs provided by the Anti-Corruption Training Institute.

The Director General of the Anti-Corruption Bureau of the ACRC Han Sam-Seok said, “the Conflict of Interest Prevention Act will be the basis to kick our national integrity level up a notch by establishing a system to prohibit common practice of seeking private gains, prevent and control conflict-of-interest situations in the public sector. We will exert all-out efforts to make all public organizations ready for the implementation of the Act as a subordinate statute has been completed by the guideline.”



## **The ACRC Listens to Experts and Partner Organizations to Spread Integrity and Ethical Management Efforts**

- *The ACRC hosted policy meeting with six public companies, such as KEPCO and LH, to develop K-Integrity and Ethics Compliance Evaluation & Certification System (K-CP)*
- *The ACRC is to distribute detailed guidelines for the K-CP in May*



Policy meeting to develop K-CP held by ACRC with six public companies

(23rd Feb. 2022, ACRC)

On 23rd February, Anti-Corruption and Civil Rights Commission hosted a policy meeting for the introduction of K-Integrity and Ethics Compliance Evaluation & Certification System (hereinafter K-CP). This meeting was intended to listen to the experts and stakeholders about the manual and implementing methods of the K-CP prepared by Anti-Corruption and Civil Rights Commission (Chairperson: Jeon Hyun-heui, ACRC).

\* K-Integrity and Ethics Compliance Evaluation & Certification System (K-CP): A system that encourages public enterprises, in their management, to voluntarily comply with ethics-and compliance-related laws and prevent, detect

and improve corruption risks. In accordance with the Article 12 (Functions) and Article 5 (Duties of Enterprises) of the Act on the Prevention of Corruption and the Establishment and Management of the Anti-Corruption and Civil Rights Commission, the ACRC started developing the system (formerly, Compliance and Ethics Program) in April 2021 as an anti-corruption and integrity innovation project.

This meeting was attended by 15 people, including five experts and representatives from six public companies, namely Korea Land and Housing Corporation (LH) and Korea Electric Power Corporation (KEPCO) that signed MoUs on integrity and ethical management with the ACRC in August. Reflecting the discussion in the meeting, the ACRC is to update the K-CP manual and distribute it around May. Based on the analysis of literature in Korea and other countries, feedback from experts and stakeholders, and discussion sessions, the ACRC developed the draft version of the manual for the K-CP (detailed guidelines).

The manual includes key indicators, performance evaluation criteria, operational plan for assessment and certification of the K-CP.

< Structure of K-CP (TBD) >



Before distributing the manual, the ACRC will pilot the system by April

at six organizations with which it signed MoUs. These organizations, including KEPCO and LH, will establish and implement operational plan according to the manual. The ACRC will also guide them by informing key focuses and areas for improvement through customized education considering the characteristics of each organization.

After distributing the manual in May, the ACRC will encourage continued integrity and ethical management efforts through the following activities: 1) evaluation and assessment of integrity and ethical management performance for 20 organizations that voluntarily apply for it; 2) consultation and awards of the ACRC for the organizations with great evaluation outcomes; and 3) education on anti-corruptive and ethical management for public organizations.

Chairperson Jeon Hyun-Heui of the ACRC said, “as a central anti-corruption agency of Korea, the ACRC has been making continued efforts to enhance integrity and ethical management,” and “this meeting is a milestone for the long journey of creating the K-CP that started last year. The ACRC will closely review the discussion today and implement the system without any problems.”

She also added, “the ACRC will actively make efforts for the spread of integrity and ethical management, so that Korea can become one of top 20 countries in the Corruption Perception Index.”

## **The ACRC and the CIO Signed an MoU: Joining Forces to Address Violation of Rights Related to Protection and Investigation of Whistle Blowers**

*- Chairperson Jeon Hyun-heui gave a special lecture on the Act on the Prevention of Conflicts of Interest related to Duties of Public Servants to the employees of CIO after signing an MoU -*



Head of CIO (left) and Chairperson of ACRC (right)

(8th Feb. 2022, ACRC)

Anti-Corruption and Civil Rights Commission and Corruption Investigation Office for High-ranking Officials will join their forces to better support and protect whistle blowers who reported crimes of high-ranking officials and to make the public sector cleaner.

Anti-Corruption and Civil Rights Commission (Chairperson: Jeon Hyun-heui, ACRC) signed an MoU with Corruption Investigation Office for High-ranking Officials (Head: Kim Jin-wook, CIO) in the afternoon

on 8<sup>th</sup> February, and they agreed to cooperate actively in keeping the identity of whistle blowers in secret and protecting them from disadvantages, such as punishment or dismissal in accordance with the Act on the Establishment and Operation of the Corruption Investigation Office for High-ranking Officials. Also, the two organizations decided not to spare their efforts for cooperation and support for financial assistance through prize money and compensation for victims.

※ The Act on the Establishment and Operation of the Corruption Investigation Office for High-ranking Officials stipulates provisions to allow support and protection measures to whistle blowers in accordance with Protection of Public Interest Reporters Act.

Also, they agreed to work actively together for early adoption of systems for protection and support of whistle blowers by improving the system that violates rights and interests of whistle blowers in the process of receiving and handling whistle-blowing cases at the CIO.

As such, it is expected that the identity of whistle blowers will be strictly protected once their reports are filed to the CIO until the end of investigation, so that practical protection will be provided to whistle blowers and they will not suffer from any disadvantages due to their reports.

Also, the ACRC and the CIO agreed to mutually cooperate on the efforts for prevention of corruption and improvement of integrity in public offices, including 1) investigation and handling of corruption report related to high-ranking officials, and 2) support for education on anti-corruption, including the Act on the Prevention of Conflicts of Interest related to Duties of Public Servants.

Indeed, on the same day after the signing of the MoU, Chairperson Jeon Hyun-heui gave a special lecture to the employees of the CIO on the purpose and major content of the Act on the Prevention of Conflicts of Interest related to Duties of Public Servants.

Also, the ACRC and the CIO decided to prevent and resolve violation of rights and interests of citizens by working actively together in investigation and handling of complaints filed in relation with non-compliance of legal procedure or delay in investigation process.

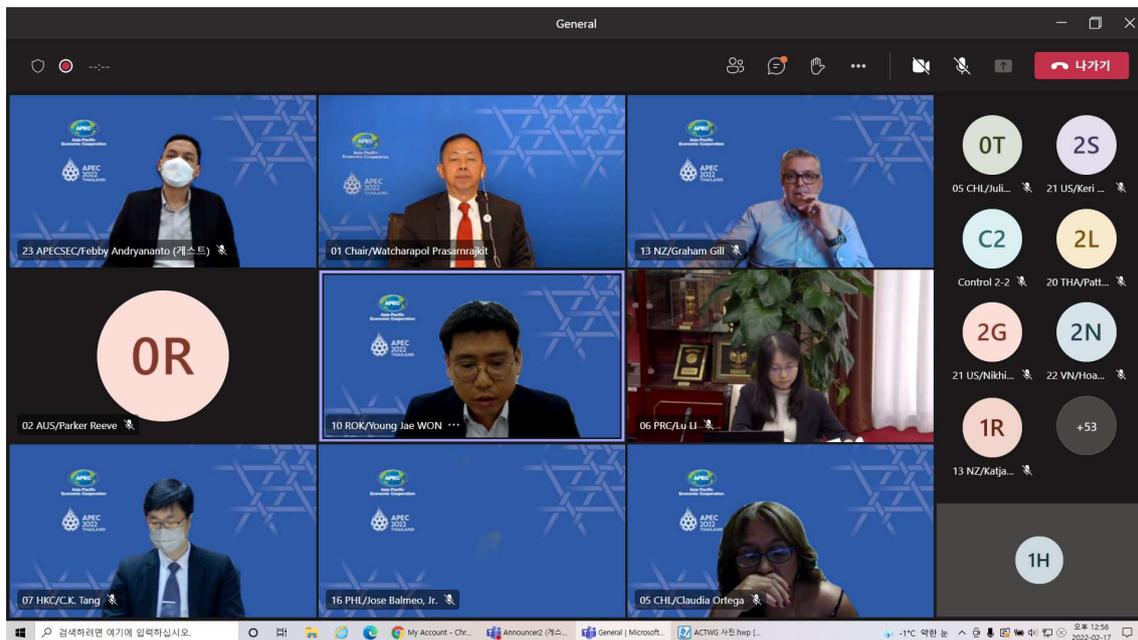
Currently, the ACRC provides the Ombudsman service regarding police investigation. On top of this, if the ACRC also offers Ombudsman service for the CIO, it is expected that the rights and interests of citizens will be better protected in investigation process in the future.

Chairperson Jeon Hyun-heui of the ACRC emphasized, “the Act on the Prevention of Conflicts of Interest related to Duties of Public Servants is to take effect in May this year. I ask the CIO for being compliant with the law by fully understanding it to establish anti-corruptive culture in public offices.” She also added, “by signing this MoU with the CIO, the ACRC will strengthen its protection and support for whistle blowers. Also, it will fulfill its role as an ombudsman for investigative agencies to prevent any violation of citizens’ rights in the investigative process of the CIO.”

Head Kim Jin-wook of the CIO said, “today’s MoU between the two organizations will be greatly helpful for the CIO in conducting investigation into crimes of high-ranking officials,” and added, “to ensure integrity and transparency in public offices and to enhance anti-corruption capacity in government agencies, I hope the cooperative relations between the two organizations can continue to grow.”

## ACRC to Introduce Conflict of Interest Prevention Act and Clean Portal at APEC Meeting

*- ACRC made a presentation at a workshop organized by the host country (15th) and ACTWG meeting (17th) with a presence of global anti-corruption experts -*



ACRC making presentation at a workshop of the 34<sup>th</sup> APEC ACTWG

(15th Feb. 2022, ACRC)

During the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) meeting to have been hosted by Thailand, the Act on the Prevention of Conflicts of Interests Related to Duties of Public Servants and Korea's online corruption reporting system, Clean Portal were introduced at a workshop on 'Technology for Transparency: Digital Disruption to Corruption' hosted by the hosting country and at the 34th Anti-Corruption and Transparency Working Group (ACTWG) meeting.

The Anti-Corruption and Civil Rights Commission (ACRC, Chairperson Jeon Hyun-Heui) virtually presented Korea's successful anti-corruption policies at a workshop and 34th ACTWG meeting on the 15th and the 17th, respectively.

On the 15th, the National Anti-Corruption Commission (NACC) of Thailand, APEC 2022 host country, organized a virtual workshop on "Technology for Transparency: Digital Disruption to Corruption"

At the workshop, the ACRC made a presentation on Clean Portal ([www.clean.go.kr](http://www.clean.go.kr)) which has been recognized as a best practice in using digital technologies for corruption prevention and control.

The workshop was attended by global anti-corruption practitioners and experts, such as representatives of anti-corruption agencies of the 21 APEC members and experts from international organizations such as UNDP(United Nations Development Programme), UNODC(United Nations Office Drugs and Crime), IACA( International Anti-Corruption Academy), and ADB(Asian Development Bank).

On the 17th, the 34th ACTWG meeting discussed 2022 Work Plan, implementation of Strategic Plan for 2023-2026, and each member's implementation status of the UNCAC(United Nations Convention Against Corruption).

At the ACTWG meeting, the ACRC explained, as Korea's progress on UNCAC implementation, the Act on the Prevention of Conflict of Interest Related to Duties of Public Servants which will be enforced in May this year.

The meeting was attended by 30 officials including government representatives of APEC members and OECD officials.

The ACTWG is held twice a year in order to respond to corruption issues and cooperate strongly with the 21 APEC member economies.

Chairperson Jeon Hyun-Heui of the ACRC said, “The ACRC, as an agency overseeing anti-corruption policies of all government organizations of Korea, will continue to actively promote the country’s anti-corruption policies in the international community and share the policies with many countries. The ACRC will eventually contribute to the global efforts to spread a culture of integrity throughout the world. ”

## **ACRC, Protector of Citizens, to Resolve Difficulties of Foreign Companies Operating in Korea**

- ACRC visited CanCham Korea to listen difficulties of foreign companies and discuss ways to resolve them -



Foreign Business Grievance Meeting between the ACRC and the CanCham

(25th Feb. 2022, ACRC)

On February 25, the Anti-Corruption and Civil Rights Commission (ACRC, Chairperson Jeon Hyun-Heui) held an onsite foreign business grievance meeting with Canadian Chamber of Commerce in Korea (CanCham Korea) to hear difficulties of international companies operating in Korea and discuss institutional improvement issues raised by them.

The onsite foreign business grievance meeting was held at the office of CanCham Korea in Jun-gu, Seoul, with the presence of ACRC Foreign Enterprises Ombudsperson, Mr. Park Gye-ok, CanCham Korea Chairman, Mr. Rockey Yoo, and other officials.

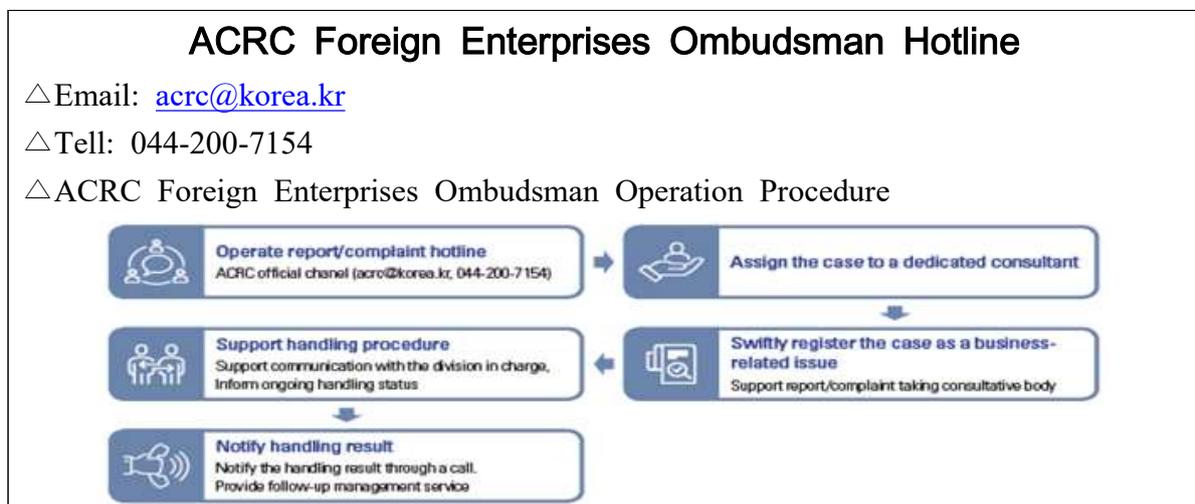
At the meeting, the ACRC listened to difficulties of CanCham Korea members regarding administrative complaints, introduce functions of the

ACRC, and discuss ways for stronger cooperation between the ACRC and CanCham Korea.

CanCham Korea is a non-profit organization founded in 1995 to support Canadian companies operating in or related to Korea. This was the second of its kind held by ACRC Foreign Enterprises Ombudsman this year, following a meeting with the European Chamber of Commerce in Korea (ECCK) last month.

Issues raised during the meeting with the ECCK, regarding policy improvements, such as reasonable adjustment of the scope of excepted driver insurance coverage exemption and reduction of time required to register environmentally friendly vehicles, are now being thoroughly reviewed by the ACRC.

ACRC Foreign Enterprises Ombudsperson Park Gye-ok said, “Canada, a country with which Korea signed a Free Trade Agreement, is a longstanding partner for Korea. The ACRC will further its efforts to protect the interests of Canadian enterprises doing business in Korea.” He added, “The ACRC will continue to actively listen difficulties of foreign businesses in Korea and will do our best to resolve them”



## **Standing on the Side of Citizens, the ACRC Hosted a Forum on Ways to Develop Administrative Appeals System for Stronger Protection of Citizens' Rights and Interests**

*- The ACRC hosted a forum with experts from various fields, including academia and legal circles to discuss about future direction of program operation -*



ACRC hosting a forum on 'Ways to Develop Administrative Appeals System'

(11th Feb. 2022, ACRC)

Anti-Corruption and Civil Rights Commission (Chairperson: Jeon Hyun-heui, ACRC) hosted a forum on 'Ways to Develop Administrative Appeals System for Stronger Protection of Citizens' Rights and Interests' at Korea Chamber of Commerce and Industry building at 2:00 PM, 11<sup>th</sup> February.

This forum was intended to identify room for improvement in the administrative appeals system and discuss ways to strengthen agility and fairness, so that the system can better protect the rights of citizens, while responding to rapidly changing administrative environment.

In today's forum, academic experts who have been studying legislative system related to administrative appeals for a long time, public officials who are operating this system, and legal professionals who are working on this system participated as presenters and panelists. They had a heated debate covering both theory and practice of administrative appeals.

Professor Lee Yoon-jeong of Kangwon National University Law School made a presentation on 'Ways to Expand Criteria for Determining Injustice in Administrative Appeals.' Lawyer Lim Young-ho presented on 'Ways to Improve Agility and Fairness of Hearing and Ruling in Administrative Appeals,' and Professor Sung Joongtak of Kyungpook National University Law School presented on 'Introduction of Appealing (Retrial) System in Administrative Appeals.'

It was followed by discussion session. Professor Cho So-Young of Pusan National University Law School served as a moderator, and Professor Oh Joon-geun of Kyunghee Law School, Professor Kim Seong Kyoon of School of Public Administration of Kyungpook National University, Commissioner Choi Hyun-jung of Gyeonggi-do Administrative Appeals Commission, and Standing Commissioner Kim Young-shim of the ACRC participated in the discussion as panelists.

Under the ACRC, the Administrative Appeals System has continued remarkable development in its protection of rights and interests of citizens.

The system of indirect compulsory performance in 2017 and the mediation and state-appointed attorney system in 2018 were respectively introduced. Also, the acceptance rate has been greatly increased as the system actively determines not just illegality of dispositions, but also unfairness.

Moreover, Online Administrative Appeals Hub System was developed, so that citizens can see their claim, progress and outcome in one place regardless of the jurisdiction of administrative appeals committees. This remarkably enhanced accessibility and convenience of citizens.

The ACRC plans to reflect the opinions gathered from the experts in this forum to the future amendment of the Administrative Appeals Act or other legislations under the act. Also, the commission will refer to this feedback in establishing development plans for provincial and municipal administrative appeals commissions.

Chairperson Jeon Hyun-heui of the ACRC said, “this forum is a meaningful place to discuss ways to make the administrative appeals system a tool for protection of citizens’ rights and interests which satisfies the expectation of Korean citizens. As such, I am convinced that this will serve as a foundation for the administrative appeals system of Korea to grow and develop.”

She also added, “the ACRC will defend the rights of citizens swiftly and fairly from violations caused by illegal and unfair administrative process.”