

Anti-corruption Policy in Korea

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I. Introduction : Corruption Matters

Corruption is one of the most serious challenges of our time. Nearly all of us are victims of corruption: whether we are poor and cannot afford to pay a bribe for basic services or taxpayers whose hard-earned money gets misappropriated. It hurts everyone who depends on the integrity of people in a position of authority.

Poorly equipped schools, counterfeit medicine and elections decided by money are just some of the consequences of public sector corruption. Bribes and back room deals don't just steal resources from the most vulnerable – they undermine justice and economic development, and destroy public trust in government and leaders. Victims of wars and conflict, voters whose democratic rights are stolen by money politics or factory workers who lose their lives working in unsafe buildings certified by an unscrupulous inspector all suffer from the same scourge.¹

Transparency International, a Berlin-based global organization dedicated to anti-corruption, released the 2014 corruption-perceptions index² on December 3, 2014.

¹ Professor Pak Hung Mo, Hong Kong Baptist University, introduces a new perspective on the role of corruption in economic growth and provides quantitative estimates of the impact of corruption on the growth and importance of the transmission channels. He finds that 1% increase in the corruption level reduces the growth rate by about 0.72 percent. Professor Pak also argues that corruption reduces the level of human capital and the share of private investment.

² The Corruption Perceptions Index is based on expert opinions of public sector corruption. The index measures how corrupt a country's public sector is perceived to be, based on surveys and assessments. It is one of the most widely used indicators of corruption worldwide. Countries' scores can be helped by open government where the public can hold leaders to account, while a poor score is a sign of prevalent bribery, lack of punishment for corruption and public institutions that don't respond to citizens' needs.



Corruption Perceptions Index 2014: Short Methodology Note

The Corruption Perceptions Index aggregates data from a number of different sources that provide perceptions of business people and country experts of the level of corruption in the public sector.

The following steps are followed to calculate the CPI:

- 1. Select data sources:** Each data source that is used to construct the Corruption Perceptions Index must fulfil the following criteria to qualify as a valid source:
 - Quantifies perceptions of corruption in the public sector
 - Be based on a reliable and valid methodology, which scores and ranks multiple countries on the same scale
 - Performed by a credible institution and expected to be repeated regularly
 - Allow for sufficient variation of scores to distinguish between countries

The CPI 2014 is calculated using 12 different data sources from 11 different institutions that capture perceptions of corruption within the past two years. These sources are described in detail in the accompanying source description document.

- 2. Standardise data sources** to a scale of 0-100 where a 0 equals the highest level of perceived corruption and 100 equals the lowest level of perceived corruption. This is done by subtracting the mean of the data set and dividing by the standard deviation and results in z-scores, which are then adjusted to have a mean of approximately 45 and a standard deviation of approximately 20 so that the data set fits the CPI's 0-100 scale. The mean and standard deviation are taken from the 2012 scores, so that the rescaled scores can be compared over time against the baseline year.
- 3. Calculate the average:** For a country or territory to be included in the CPI, a minimum of three sources must assess that country. A country's CPI score is then calculated as the average of all standardised scores available for that country. Scores are rounded to whole numbers.
- 4. Report a measure of uncertainty:** The CPI is accompanied by a standard error and confidence interval associated with the score, which capture the variation in scores of the data sources available for that country/territory.

Denmark was perceived to be the most transparent, scoring 92 points, followed by New Zealand. Finland and Sweden, the Nordic countries that are generally perceived to be transparent, proved to be so again, ranking third and fourth, respectively. In Asia, Singapore, Japan and Hong Kong were transparent. Singapore was ranked seventh, Japan 15th and Hong Kong 17th.

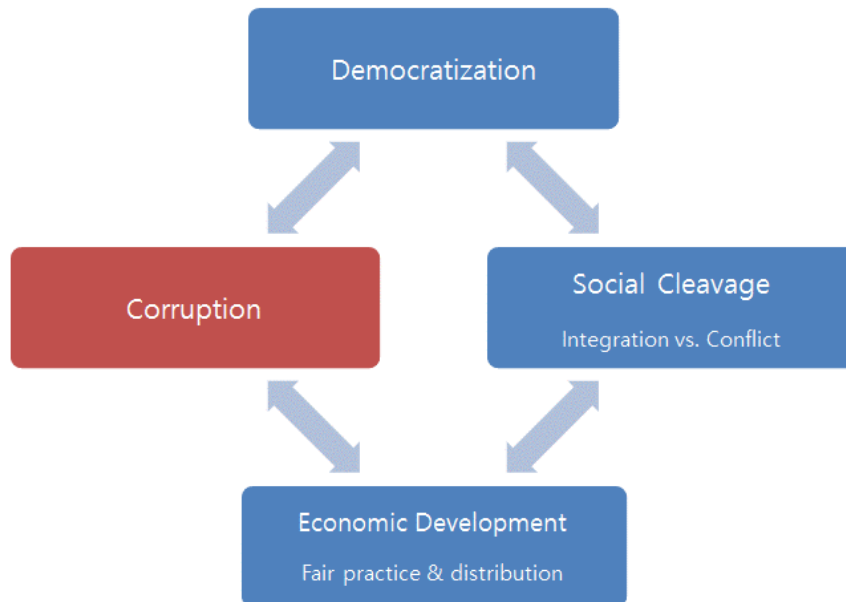
Data Source Scores

Country Rank	Regional Rank	Country / Territory	CPI 2014 Score	Sweeps Used	Standard Error	90% Confidence Interval		Score range	
						Lower	Upper	MIN	MAX
2	1	New Zealand	91	7	2.28	87	95	88	98
7	2	Singapore	84	8	1.75	81	87	75	90
11	3	Australia	80	8	1.31	78	82	71	83
15	4	Japan	76	8	3.16	71	81	57	87
17	5	Hong Kong	74	7	2.75	69	79	64	87
30	6	Bhutan	65	4	1.81	62	68	62	70
33	7	Taiwan	61	7	4.17	54	68	48	79
43	8	Korea (South)	55	9	2.64	51	59	44	73
50	9	Malaysia	52	8	2.88	47	57	41	64
50	9	Samoa	52	3	4.88	44	60	42	58
80	11	Mongolia	39	7	2.13	35	43	31	47
85	12	India	38	9	2.27	34	42	29	47
85	12	Philippines	38	8	1.84	35	41	32	45
85	12	Sri Lanka	38	7	2.18	34	42	28	45
85	12	Thailand	38	8	1.60	35	41	31	44
100	16	China	36	8	1.17	32	40	28	47
107	17	Indonesia	34	8	3.57	28	40	21	50
119	18	Vietnam	31	8	2.55	27	35	21	41
126	19	Nepal	29	5	2.20	25	33	22	35
126	19	Pakistan	29	7	3.24	24	34	19	42
133	21	Timor-Leste	28	3	5.18	19	37	22	38
145	22	Bangladesh	25	7	4.23	18	32	18	50
145	22	Laos	25	4	3.80	19	31	19	36
145	22	Papua New Guinea	25	5	4.16	18	32	11	35
156	25	Cambodia	21	7	2.25	17	25	12	27
156	25	Myanmar	21	7	2.87	16	26	11	35
172	27	Afghanistan	12	4	1.29	10	14	10	16
174	28	Korea (North)	8	3	3.35	2	14	1	12

“The 2014 Corruption Perceptions Index shows that economic growth is undermined and efforts to stop corruption fade when leaders and high level officials abuse power to appropriate public funds for personal gain,” said José Ugaz, the chair of Transparency International.

Corruption is a problem for all countries. A poor score is likely a sign of widespread bribery, lack of punishment for corruption and public institutions that don’t respond to citizens’ needs. Countries at the top of the index also need to act. Leading financial centers in the EU and US need to join with fast-growing economies to stop the corrupt from getting away with it. The G20 needs to prove its global leadership role and prevent money laundering and stop secret companies from masking corruption.

Framework



II. Corruption in Korea

Korea ranked 43rd in the corruption-perceptions index among 175 countries this year. Korea scored 55 points, making it 27th among the 34 Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) member countries. Despite notable economic growth, Korea is still lagging behind its peers in terms of transparency. It has especially made no improvement in terms of transparency during the past few years.

Political, Socio-Economic and Cultural Basis of Corruption in Korea

Korea has been known as one of rare cases to demonstrate both compressed economic growth and political democratization. Emerging from the ruins of the Korean War in 1953, Korea was one of the poorest countries in the world. In some 60 years, however, it has grown into the world's 10th-largest economy. Since the 1960s, strong government policies to boost the national economy have been the driving force behind this stunning achievement.

It has been even argued that it is the only country in the world that was recently colonized and has since become an official member of the Development Assistance Committee of the OECD.

Considering various political, administrative, social, and cultural factors, many believe that the strength and nature of developmental state of Korea made the compressed economic development possible.

South Korea is one of classic examples of developmental state in that it protected its market from global competition while it introduced interventionist economic and industrial policies with effective planning and implementation capacities mainly exercised by bureaucracy. Taking advantage of the expanding global economy, Korea pursued an export-oriented strategy rather than an import-substitution strategy, which enabled South Korea to effectively build up manufacturing industries and to swiftly penetrate into global market based on its competitiveness in cost and quality of labor.

The origin of Korea's developmental state is the Park Chung-hee regime, which established itself after the military coup of 1961 and continued for 18 years until his assassination in 1979. Under Park's regime, Korea marked a rapid economic growth with strong and stable state capacity along with her strong interventionist policies. Like many developing countries, Korea was basically an authoritarian state under the Park's regime which repressed political demand for democracy for the sake of political stability and efficient and strategic management of economic growth.

Korea's rapid development in the latter half of the 20th century came on the back of heavy state involvement in the economy, with crony capitalism a persistent feature of previous dictatorial governments. Economic growth was in the past seen as a greater priority than transparency and the rule of law. In Korea, illegalities and irregularities were tolerated in the course of rapid economic growth and in connection with nepotism and paternalism characteristic of Korean society.

The government had no apparatus to curb or check its own activities, and this led to more pervasive abuses of power, for instance, the illegal accumulation of wealth by some political leaders and widespread bribery in the civil service. Most problematic were the deeply embedded affiliations between business and politics, which resulted in the unfettered spawning of companies actively seeking the government's favor even to this day.

It can be traced to decades of close links between past authoritarian governments headed by former army generals and the big business conglomerates such as Samsung, Hyundai and the now-defunct Daewoo that drove the country's industrialization.

Some people say, however, corruption is arguably well controlled in Korea in the course of economic development comparing to other countries of similar development stage although various forms of corruptive practices were still found.

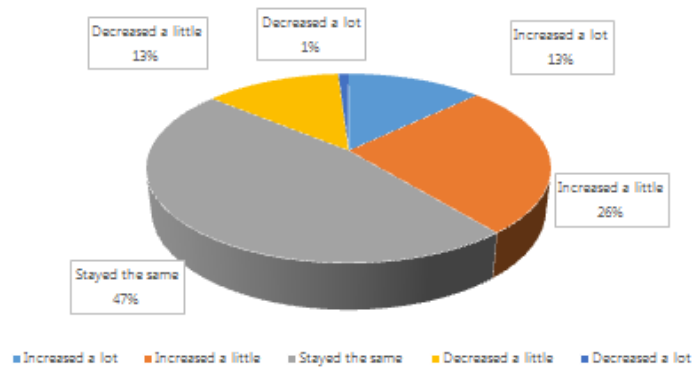
The pre-modern Confucian culture and practices have been the source of malpractices and wrong doings in Korean society. Very often, political decisions and policy measures are not taken according to the rule of law, but rather on personal relationship with authorities. Corrupt practices in Korea might stem from cronyism, which is characteristic of Asian countries and has long been considered a good tradition among Korea people.

This sort of culture is related to personal networking. School ties and regional relations comprise the bulk of networks. Such names as TK, PK, MK regime indicate regional and school basis of previous government. It undermines the fair competition and leads to corruption.

Global Corruption Barometer 2013(South Korea)

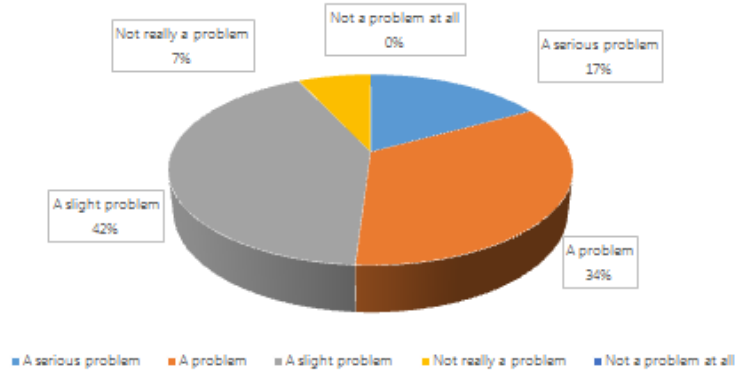
Global Corruption Barometer 2013(South Korea)

1. Over the past two years how has the level of corruption in this country/territory changed?



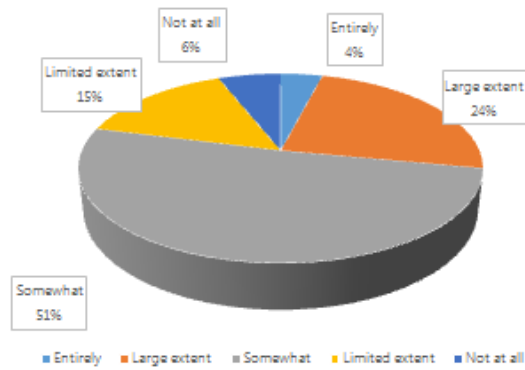
Global Corruption Barometer 2013(South Korea)

2. To what extent do you think corruption is a problem in the public sector in this country/territory?



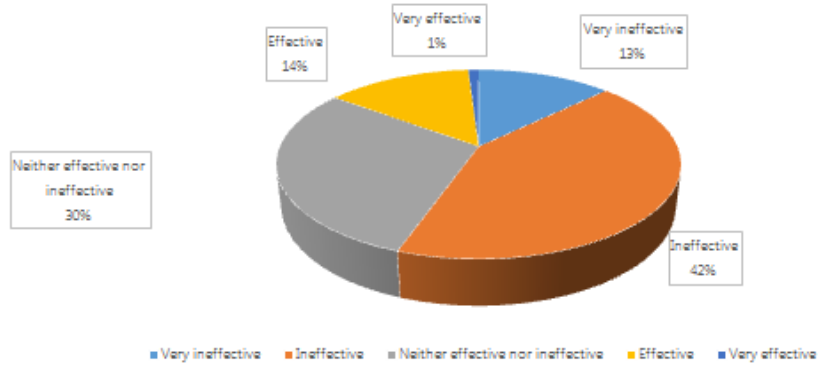
Global Corruption Barometer 2013(South Korea)

3. To what extent is this government run by a few big entities acting in their own best interests?



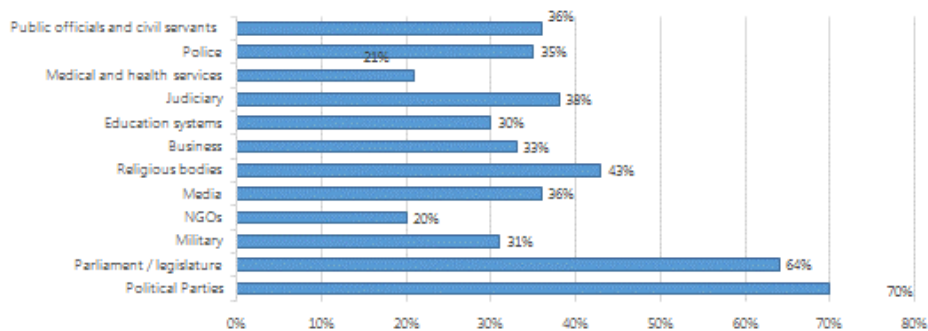
Global Corruption Barometer 2013(South Korea)

4. How effective do you think your government's actions are in the fight against corruption?

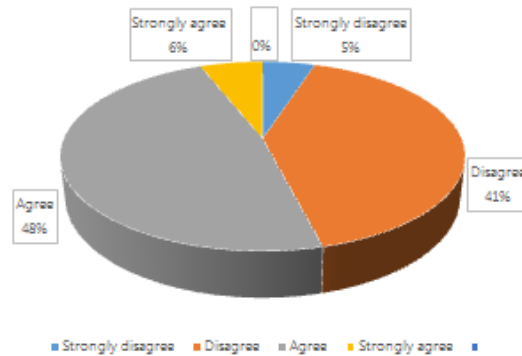


Global Corruption Barometer 2013(South Korea)

5. PERCENTAGE OF RESPONDENTS WHO FELT THESE INSTITUTIONS WERE CORRUPT/EXTREMELY CORRUPT IN THIS COUNTRY/TERRITORY ?



6. TO WHAT EXTENT DO YOU AGREE THAT ORDINARY PEOPLE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN THE FIGHT AGAINST CORRUPTION?



What is disappointing is that Korea has made no improvement during the past six years. The Korean government should take full responsibility for this. It should make the corruption issue a top priority in the national agenda, and examine its anti-corruption policies and redesign them. The Sewol ferry disaster that left more than 300 people dead or missing was triggered by corruption.

Case 1: Corruptions in Political Circle (Political Leaders and political parties)

In 1995, former President Roh Tae-woo was found guilty of accepting hundreds of billions of won from Korean Chaebols. His successor, President Kim Young-sam, was no better. In 1997, his second son Kim Hyun-chul, was found guilty of influence-peddling. Next President Kim Dae-jung's three sons were prosecuted for bribery and financial wrong doings. Two sons were found guilty and sentenced to jail. Former President Rho Moo-hyun's brother was also prosecuted for soliciting a position and receiving bribery.

Corruption among politicians does not just apply to national politics. Corruption among local government officials was so high that during the 2nd and third term of local government, a total of 142 local government heads were prosecuted.

Illegal political funding has been a serious problem in Korean politics. Recently, however, the

election law has become more stringent and the penalty for violation has become stiffer; this seems to have led to a decrease in illegal funding.³

Anyhow, the corrupt behavior of politicians has led to acute distrust, and has been an impediment to maintaining unity of society. In turn, this has weakened the country's competitive power.

Case 2: Corruption in military and defense industry

One of the latest examples involved the first domestic-made rescue and salvage ship, the 3,500-ton Tongyeong. A former Navy officer was indicted on Oct. 19 on charges of forging a document for the selection of a sonar system for the vessel, when he was in charge of selecting a supplier on behalf of the Defense Acquisition Program Administration (DAPA). The vessel that cost 160 billion won (\$146 million) was launched in September 2012, but failed to take part in the rescue operation after the Sewol ferry sank in April because the sonar system was outdated. 295 passengers died during the deadly ferry sinking.

The government recently launched a joint investigation team of prosecutors, military officers and government officials to root out corruption in the nation's defense industry.

The inter-departmental drive to conduct investigations into irregularities involving defense contractors comes amid growing allegations of bribery and other underhand dealings between military officials and defense firms. They also include cozy relations between the arms procurement agency and retired service personnel hired by private defense companies.

Corruption within the military has been a big problem in Korea. That is not just a recent phenomenon. Cases began to emerge under the military regimes of former Presidents Chun Doo-hwan and Roh Tae-woo from the early 1980s through to the 1990s when the nation attempted to enhance its military capabilities through a program of modernization beginning with the Yulgok Project initiated in 1974 under late President Park Chung-hee with the aim of strengthening the nation's military capabilities. This ended in 1986 during President Chun Doo-hwan's administration.

³ To reduce the soaring cost of politics, the government in March 2004 amended three political laws: the Election Act, the Political Parties Act, and the Political Funds Act. These laws have made it illegal to operate district party chapters and to organize joint election campaigns. Instead, candidates are required to utilize more economical options, such as TV campaigns. Companies and organizations are prohibited from making political contributions and the ceiling on personal political contributions was lowered from \$100,000 to \$20,000 per year. Any person who receives money, food, or entertainment from a politician shall be subject to a fine 50 times of the amount received, while those who report such an act to National Election Commission may receive reward money 50 times of the amount received.

Case 3: Collusion among construction companies

Fair Trade Commission (FTC) said that the seven companies colluded to rig their bids in order to win contracts to build dams and reservoirs on the Han, Nakdong and Keum rivers. It said there could be more such action regarding the controversial 22-trillion-won infrastructure scheme conducted under the former Lee Myung-bak administration. Hanjin Heavy Industries, Dongbu Corp., Doosan Engineering and Construction (E&C) and four other builders were fined 15.2 billion won (\$13.9 million) for bid rigging when construction contracts were offered for the four-river refurbishment project.

According to FTC, Hanjin and Dongbu colluded to bid for part of the four-river project in October 2009. Prior to the bidding, Dongbu and Hanjin agreed on the bidding prices that each would submit so that Hanjin could get a contract at a higher price. In return, Hanjin bought 40 golf memberships worth 4 billion won from a golf course owned by Dongbu. This was the second of its kind after the anti-trust agency fined eight construction firms, including Hyundai, Samsung, Daewoo and Daelim, combined 111.5 billion won in 2012 for collusion on the four-river projects. FTC official said, "The widespread bid rigging among builders ends up wasting taxpayers' money. So we will continue to look into other builders, which took part in the four-river scheme and other projects, for any irregularities."

III. Anti-corruption Remedies

As mentioned, government-led economic development brought with it negative byproducts such as shady ties between business and politics, and these ties gave rise to pervasive corruption in Korean society. By the 1990s, they threatened the country's continued economic development. Reckless business management and unhealthy collusion between business and politics was one of the major causes of the financial crisis that hit Korea in the late 1990s. Public criticism of corruption grew louder than ever, prompting the government to undertake drastic reforms.

Government level

To overcome the financial crisis and enhance national competitiveness, the Korean government implemented full-scale reforms in the late 1990s. The focus was to build the legal and

institutional frameworks to prevent and tackle corruption. The core institutional initiatives were the formulation of the Anti-corruption Act in 2001, the establishment of the Korea Independent Commission Against Corruption in 2002 and the inception of the Interagency Meeting on Corruption in 2004. Established under the Anti-corruption Act in 2002, KICAC is an independent agency that establishes and coordinates national anti-corruption policies.

The Anti-Corruption & Civil Rights Commission (ACRC) was launched on February 29, 2008 by the integration of the Ombudsman of Korea, the Korea Independent Commission against Corruption (KICAC) and the Administrative Appeals Commission. With the consolidation of these three organizations, citizens can be provided with one-stop service of addressing public complaints, filing administrative appeals and fighting corruption by a single organization in a speedier and more convenient manner.

The Anti-Corruption & Civil Rights Commission (ACRC) is the main government body for anti-corruption activities. ACRC formulates national anti-corruption policies to be implemented at every level of government. And, it discusses and coordinates government-wide measures designed to prevent corruption in the short and long term.

The first function of ACRC is assessing Integrity of Public Organizations.

ACRC assesses the levels of integrity of public sector organizations each year by surveying citizens who have had firsthand experience with public services. The commission also evaluates the anti-corruption initiatives taken by public organizations on a regular basis. The fundamental objective of these assessments is to encourage public organizations to make voluntary efforts to tackle corruption.⁴

The second function of ACRC is closing Legal and Regulatory Loopholes.

ACRC makes recommendations to help government agencies to amend ambiguous, corruption-prone laws and institutions, and regularly confirms the implementation of ACRC's recommendations.

The third role of ACRC is conducting Corruption Impact Assessment

The Corruption Impact Assessment is an analytical mechanism designed to identify and remove

⁴ To enhance ethics in public service, ACRC enacted the Code of Conduct for Public Officials in February 2003 as an ethical guideline for public officials. Based on this model code, public sector agencies have introduced their own codes of conduct. ACRC monitors compliance with and investigates violations of these codes by public sector employees.

corruption-causing factors in advance in laws and regulations. Under this system, every proposed enactment and amendment as well as existing legislation is examined for any factor that could contribute to the occurrence of corrupt practices.

The fourth function of ACRC is to promote Public-Private Partnership to Fight Corruption. To do this work, ACRC carries out a variety of public awareness programs to encourage citizens' cooperation and participation in enhancing national integrity.

To raise awareness of the risks of corruption and establish a sustainable system of national integrity, ACRC focuses on anti-corruption education for public servants and students.

ACRC helps civil groups operate local Anti-Corruption Centers to conduct various corruption prevention activities such as monitoring, training, and integrity promotion campaigns. ACRC also assists businesses in matters concerning ethical management and recommends standard codes of business ethics to domestic enterprises.

The fifth function of ACRC is protecting whistle-blowers. ACRC takes measures to guarantee their continued employment, including reinstatement to their original position, arrangement of a transfer to a different post, and deferment of disciplinary measures against them.

Korea has implemented the "Act on the Protection of the Public Interest Whistle-blowers" since September 30, 2011, in order to protect the whistle-blowers who report any violation of the public interest in both public and private sectors. As a result, not only informants (whistle-blowers) who report any corruption case of public sector but also whistle-blowers who report any behavior that could harm the public health and safety, or environment, including manufacturing of harmful foods or illegal disposal of waste water, can be protected against discrimination or disciplinary actions in Korea.

The sixth function of ACRC is joining Global Efforts to Fight Corruption.

ACRC maintains close relations with international organizations and anti-corruption agencies of other countries in the fight against corruption. We have worked with the UN, OECD, APEC and TI to promote and implement international conventions such as the UN Convention against Corruption and the OECD Anti-Bribery Convention. In 2006, Korea and Indonesia signed a pact to promote bilateral cooperation in the fight against graft at the Indonesian presidential Palace.⁵ Recently, ACRC has been actively responding to calls from the international community to help

⁵ Chung Song-Jin, chairman of the Korea Independent Commission Against Corruption signed a memorandum of understanding with Taufiequrachman Ruki, chairman of the Corruption Eradication Commission of Indonesia.

other countries enhance their anti-corruption capacity.⁶

Civil Society and Governance (Coordination)

Credit for Korea's enhanced transparency should go to civil society of Korea for its active involvement in the fight against corruption. Since the mid-1990s, Korea's NGOs have voiced the need for anti-corruption laws and an independent agency dedicated to fighting corruption. They have also vigorously engaged in monitoring power-related corruption.

In May 2000, civic groups came together to form the Citizens' Coalition for Anti-Corruption Legislation in order to file a petition for the legislation of anti-corruption policies during the National Assembly. The public responded favorably to this audacious move by the civic groups, whose subsequent outcome was the passing of the Anti-Corruption Act (ACA) on 28 June 2001.

It was also NGOs that proposed the signing of the Korean Pact on Anti-corruption and Transparency. The landmark K-PACT was signed in March 2005 by representatives from the public, political, business and civilian sectors. It is a common pledge of Korean society to overcome corruption and advance towards a transparent society through public-private partnership.

After the Saewol Ferry disaster, the Korea Network on Anti-Corruption and Transparency (KNACT) is rejoined to act against corruption. The cooperative body aims to pool efforts of civilian and public sector to root out graft by sharing information, fostering experts and hosting a symposium to design relevant policies. This network is composed of civil society organizations, some government, and other active groups.

Although many public interest groups and civic groups are concerned with overall corruption issues, the Transparency International Korean chapter (TI-K) is the major organization for anti-corruption activities.

⁶ Bilateral cooperation is also proceeded successfully. Korea and the U.K. have been operating a collaborative anti-corruption project since April this year. The project, which will run until March 2015, aims to share the two nations' related policies and to increase cooperation between concerned government organizations, and to raise awareness about corruption in both the public and private sectors. The first Korea-U.K. Anti-Corruption Seminar was held in Seoul on December 9, 2014 as part of the two countries' ongoing efforts to strengthen cooperation in fighting corruption.

TI-Korea's activities are related with ACRC's functions such as: i) promoting compliance to laws and political system by constructing a national integrity system, ii) research on anti-corruption policy and collection of related data, iii) education on anti-corruption and transparency movements, iv) developing a transparent business culture through ethical management⁷, v) international anti-corruption activities.

In efforts to promote integrity and an anti-corruption mind set within both public and private entities, TI-Korea carries out research and conducts surveys to measure staff perception of integrity and corruption. TI-Korea then reports back to the given entity, providing results and recommendations with the aim of helping the given organization or company promote integrity and transparency values in their work place. Most research is carried out by TI-Korea's MOU cosignatory agencies and organizations.

TI-Korea keeps a close eye on the Korean government's new policies and changes in laws, especially those related to integrity, transparency and corruption issues. TI-Korea not only actively follows policy developments, but also proposes and recommends proactive policies to the government's respective agencies. For example, TI-Korea, in coordination with other non-governmental and civil society groups, proposed a number of policies to two presidential candidates in the 2013 election.

3) Introduction and implementation of Citizen's Ombudsman

By strengthening the South Korean ombudsman system, which accepts complaints from citizen's across all spheres regarding mal-administration and rights violations, TI-Korea helps promote integrity and transparency. Through TI-Korea's efforts many Korean government institutions have established ombudsmen offices to address complaints from groups or individuals.⁸

V. What should be done?

⁷ Business Ethics School: Creating a culture of good business ethics by strategically supervising domestic enterprises; Understanding the reality of business ethics by developing a business ethics index; Standardizing and promulgating an anti-corruption and ethical management system

⁸ For example,; Korea Workers Compensation & Welfare Office, Korea Transportation Safety Authority, National Police Agency, Korea Basic Science Institute, Gyeonggi Provincial Office of Education, Seodaemun-gu District Office, Korea Horse Racing Authority, and Seoul Junggu District Office.

In spite of continuous, comprehensive government reform, the level of Korea's transparency perceived by both its citizens and foreigners is not satisfactory enough. This is because it usually takes a long time for anti-corruption measures to produce the desired outcomes.

Institutions and culture

In Korea, this coming year is critical for fighting against Corruption. In 2015 there is no election and discussions on reform in various fields would be possible. The reform issues include Constitutional Reform, electoral and welfare laws, regulative policies.

The financial crisis of 1997-1998 was the turning point to implement full-scale reforms including tackling corruption. I think the Saewol Ferry disaster must be the ground for fundamental reform of Korean society. Corrupt links in the civil service and the marine transportation industry were one of the major causes of the disaster that claimed more than 300 lives.

Currently, a tough bill against corruption is on the public agenda. Lawmakers recently resumed reviewing the draft of an anti-corruption bill that has been stalled in the parliament since May due to a series of summer elections and ongoing partisan strife over other pieces of legislation.

The so-called Kim Young-ran bill, named after the former chair of the Anti-Corruption and Civil Rights Commission, aims to end influence peddling in officialdom by making it a crime to receive any kind of unofficial monetary payment. The bill's core clause stipulates that civil servants who receive 1 million won or more will face criminal charges whether or not the money was related to their duties and whether or not it was part of an act of solicitation.

Public support for the bill has always been high, but its popularity rose in the weeks following the Sewol ferry disaster in April, when cronyism among marine safety regulators was cited as one of the accident's key causes.

Some scholars maintain that open lobbying is needed for transparent decision making in public sphere. The law on lobbying, which would allow ordinary citizens and civic groups to employ competent lobbyists at market prices, would do away with the long-running practice of public servants giving favors to retired colleagues. The practice has been helping foster collusive links

between government agencies and businesses, hampering efforts to root out corruption, critics say.

People's Power⁹

Nothing feeds corruption more than apathy, or the belief nothing can be done and it is "just the way life is". This portrayal of corruption allows impunity for corruption to flourish – it allows the corrupt to get away with it. But not for long. There is compelling and overwhelming evidence that people throughout the world have had enough and are willing to take action to stop corruption.

Two in three people believe that ordinary people can make a difference in the fight against corruption and more than 90 per cent of people would be willing to be engaged in the fight against corruption. When people act, then change will happen.

Imagine a future where every person in the world takes united action to reject corruption. Transparency International is calling on people everywhere to take simple but profound actions to start an unstoppable global movement to eradicate corruption.

The Declaration Against Corruption seeks to inspire, nothing more or less than a global wave of people standing up to corruption and demanding dignity for themselves and others. Be part of the change. We should urge people to adopt the declaration, to discuss it with friends and family, in communities, in places of work, in schools, in hospitals, in places of worship. And, most importantly, to act.

⁹ This is your pledge:(from TI)

I will not pay bribes. I will not seek bribes. I will work with others to campaign against corruption

I will speak out against corruption and report on abuse. I will only support candidates for public office who say no to corruption and demonstrate transparency, integrity and accountability