# Promoting the Integrity Awards

## Motivating Integrity in Governance and Promoting a Positive Cycle

## I. Background

Integrity in governance is often a decisive factor in the effectiveness of governance. The occurrence of corruption cases not only leads to a high level of public distrust in government administration, but also undermines the morale of the administrative team. Therefore, it is important for all the staff of a government institution to work together in solidarity, to be aware of integrity risks, to implement integrity in governance, and to take effective measures of transparency or innovative prevention beforehand to seamlessly mitigate integrity risks.

In order to encourage government agencies at all levels to be more committed to integrity governance, and also according to the concluding observations of the International Review Committee, composed of international anti-corruption experts, on the review of ROC's Initial Report under the United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC), the Agency Against Corruption (AAC) has been promoting the tentative "Integrity Awards" since 2019. The tentative "Integrity Awards" is to recognize administrative teams that have a proven track record of commitment to integrity and to cumulate empirical experience.

Premier Su, Tseng-chang emphasized in the Central Integrity Committee meeting that "prevention is better than cure", and we should not only recognize those who implement the prevention of mistakes, crimes, corruption, and disaster, but also establish an award mechanism. The AAC continues to promote the "Integrity Awards" to affirm the implementation of integrity in governance of administrative teams, and to guide the participating agencies to actively emulate outstanding models for further innovation and excellence that promote a positive cycle of integrity in the public sector.

## II. Objective

1. **Enhancing the international image of clean government in Taiwan:** In recent years, Taiwan has been actively implementing the UNCAC and has been ranking well in the annual Transparency International's Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI). The Integrity Awards serves as a concrete demonstration of the results of the integrity and transparency measures of various government agencies in Taiwan, creating an image of a clean and transparent government.

2. **Demonstrating the National Integrity Building Action Plan:** Taiwan has formulated nine specific strategies centered on the "National Integrity Building Action Plan" to realize the vision of "Clean, Competent Government and a Transparent Taiwan." Through the holding and public recognition of the "Integrity Awards," the benchmark government agencies will project positive influence and lead other government agencies to emulate and learn from best practices.



Enhancing the international image of clean government

Demonstrating national integrity building action plan

Building a foundation of public trust

Motivating orale of civil servants

3. **Building a foundation of public trust:** Through the "Integrity Awards," the government conveys the positive energy of integrity and efficiency of the benchmark government agencies and enhances public trust in clean government.

4. **Motivating morale of civil servants:** Based on the belief that "corruption prevention takes precedence over corruption investigation", agencies are able to forge a consensus on integrity among agency heads and colleagues, review and strengthen the risk prevention and control mechanism proactively and introduce innovative practices of integrity through the participation of the "Integrity Awards", so as to identify the highlights of the various agencies and to motivate
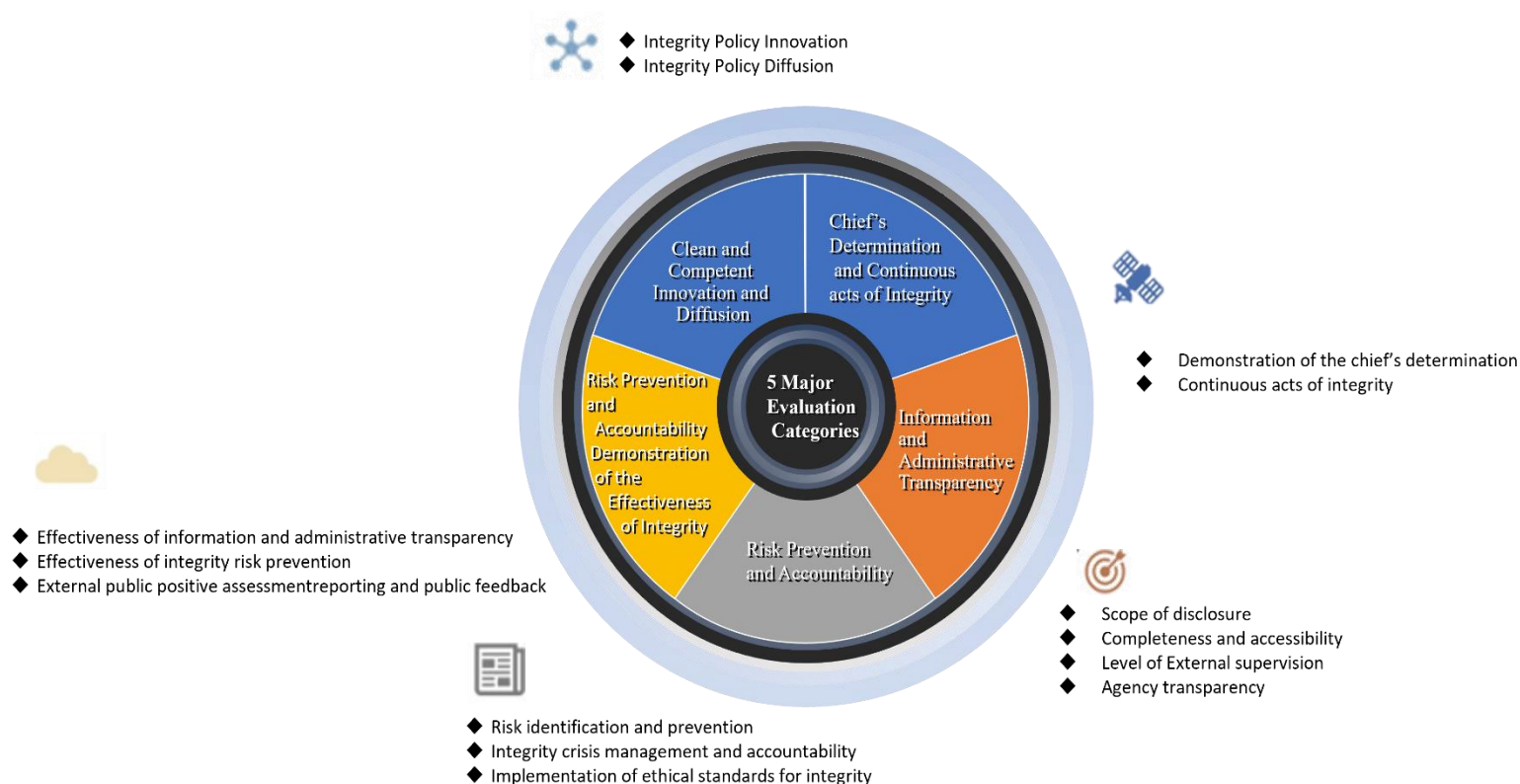
morale of civil servants.

## III. Goals and Philosophy

Based on the core **philosophy** of "anti-corruption and advocacy for integrity", the "Integrity Awards" can be harnessed to **motivate** authorities to conduct self-reviews of their respective integrity measures, to demonstrate the **commitment** of clean governance of agency heads and colleagues, to propose effective strategies and various highlights of integrity in governance, and to verify and affirm the administrative effectiveness and innovative benefits through the **participation** of external third parties in the evaluation process, thereby gaining the public's **trust** in the integrity and transparency of the authorities.

## IV. 5 Major Evaluation Categories

In accordance with the concluding observations of the international review of ROC's initial report under the UNCAC, the AAC has proposed a pilot award mechanism for the "Integrity Awards" as a form of evaluation of integrity practices of public institutions. The Integrity Awards was positively received by the expert panel during the international review of the second national report under the UNCAC in 2022. It is expected that the Integrity Awards will continue to serve as an example to encourage public agencies and institutions to establish or adopt a more systematic approach to conduct regular integrity risk evaluations. This award is evaluated under the categories of "Chief's Determination and Continuous Acts of Integrity," "Information and Administrative Transparency," "Risk Prevention and Accountability," and "Demonstration of Specific Integrity Effectiveness" and "Clean and Competent Innovation and Diffusion."

◆ Integrity Policy Innovation
◆ Integrity Policy Diffusion

◆ Demonstration of the chief's determination
◆ Continuous acts of integrity

◆ Effectiveness of information and administrative transparency
◆ Effectiveness of integrity risk prevention
◆ External public positive assessmentreporting and public feedback

◆ Scope of disclosure
◆ Completeness and accessibility
◆ Level of External supervision
◆ Agency transparency

◆ Risk identification and prevention
◆ Integrity crisis management and accountability
◆ Implementation of ethical standards for integrity

# V. Current status of the tentative award implementation

Since 2019, the central and local authorities has nominated 61 agencies (institutions) to participate in the pilot award scheme, including general administrative agencies, state-owned (public) enterprises and administrative legal persons.

| Year | Participating agencies (institutions) | | Outstanding agencies (institutions) | Introduction |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Central Agencies | Local Agencies | | |
| **2019** | 0 | 10 | 3 | The first pilot event saw the participation of the affiliations of the Hsinchu City Government, the Taichung City Government, and the Kaohsiung City Government. |
| **2020** | 8 | 8 | 6 | Central and local government agencies participated in the Integrity Awards. |

| 2021 | 6 | 11 | 6 | Offshore areas (the Penghu County Government's affiliated agency) participated for the first time. |
| 2022 | 8 | 10 | 7 | Besides central and local government agencies to participate in the award, state-owned enterprises and administrative legal persons also proactively participated in the award. |