



Press release of Agency Against Corruption, Ministry of Justice

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Taiwan ranks 31st among clean public sectors worldwide in Transparency International's 2018 Corruption Perceptions Index

On January 29, 2019, Transparency International (TI) published its 2018 Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI) covering 180 countries and regions (same in 2017) including Taiwan. Leaving 82% of the assessed countries in the dust, Taiwan achieved a score of 63 points (out of 100 points for public sectors perceived as cleanest), the same score as last year, placing the island nation 31st worldwide, two spots down from 2017 and the same spot as 2016. In the Asia-Pacific region, Taiwan ranks 7th (same as 2017), only below New Zealand (ranked 2nd worldwide with 87 points), Singapore (3rd place, 85 points), Australia (13th place, 77 points), Hong Kong (14th place, 76 points), Japan (18th place, 73 points) and Bhutan (25th place, 68 points).

For its 2018 edition, the Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI) assessed Taiwan with the aid of 13 renowned international organizations using survey data from 8 institutions, as detailed in Attachment 1. Among those surveys, Taiwan scored very well in the Political Risk Index (PRI) of PRS Group, with an overall six-point progress. PRI surveys abuse of appointment rights in national political systems, nepotism, retention of specific vacancies, favoring of certain stakeholders, secret funding of political parties, and overly close relations between industry and government. Taiwan has made progress on all these indicators, reflecting the effectiveness of the Taiwanese government's policies to prevent and combat corruption.

However, in the Global Competitiveness Index (GCI) of the World

Economic Forum (WEF), Taiwan lost as many as 6 points. An October 17, 2018 press release issued by Taiwan's National Development Commission pointed out that WEF measured Taiwan against other countries using the all-new "GCI 4.0", and that Taiwan would take reference from the index when formulating policies to improve its ranking on indicators on which it showed comparatively weak performance, such as efficiency of legal dispute resolution, degree of educational focus on creativity and inspiration, complexity of customs tariffs, numbers of days needed to start a company, etc. In recent years, Taiwan's government has also consistently promoted the transparency and digitization of government operations and services to enable its citizens to make inquiries, file applications, and engage in dialogue with the government online. This has increased the people's perception of government as transparent and helped increase people's positive evaluations of the government's cleanness. The Executive Yuan also instructed government agencies to promote the establishment of a clean government platform for important national public infrastructure projects in order to encourage open and transparent operations, eliminate improper interference and reduce doubts about the risk of illegal goings-on in major public construction projects. These measures will likely improve Taiwan's scores in future GCI rankings by WEF.

A closer look at the survey data of CPI 2018 reveals that the indicators on which Taiwan had weaker scores were all compiled from assessments by managers in multinational corporations. Thus, improving Taiwan's scores on these indicators will require focusing on reducing negative impact of corruption on enterprise operation and management and preventing and blocking improper interaction between government and industry. Therefore, at its 21st meeting, the Central Integrity Commission decided that the Executive Yuan would invite the Ministry of Economic Affairs, Financial Supervisory Commission, Ministry of Justice, and other relevant government agencies to take reference from ISO 37001, the international standard for anti-bribery management systems to strengthen corporate governance and enhance Taiwan's overall competitiveness. In order to prevent recidivism of bribery, the Agency Against Corruption requires all civil service ethics office embedded within government agencies to adopt the anti-corruption guidelines to eliminate all sorts of corrupt and unlawful conduct and organize

conference with relevant units inside government agencies, academics and experts to jointly discuss preventive measures that may be taken to address those. The corruption prevention methods adopted will be published on government websites and social media so that the general public is informed of the improvement measures adopted and may join in the monitoring of those agencies and the prevention of recidivism.

We believe that clean government requires a systemic approach and a comprehensive strategy. This cannot be achieved by one unit alone. Rather, it depends on the cooperation between the public and private sectors. The Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI) is an international ranking of the perceived cleanliness of public sectors in countries around the world and is annually compiled and published by Transparency International. The results of CPI 2018 inspire us to continue our work to strengthen our program of clean government measures and approaches in order to enable assessment organizations to understand Taiwan's endeavors and achievements in building a clean government, and help evaluation experts understand Taiwan's resolve to eradicate corruption, and improve Taiwan's scores in clean government rankings and its national image.

Attachment 1

Taiwan's scores in the databases used to create the Corruption Perception Indexes 2018 and 2017.

No.	Organization	Survey	Score in 2017	Score in 2018	Change
1	全球透視機構 (Global Insight, GI)	國家風險評等 (Global Insight Country Risk Ratings)	71	71	0
2	經濟學人智庫 (Economist Intelligence Unit, EIU)	國家風險評估 (Economist Intelligence Unit Country Risk Assessment)	55	55	0
3	國際管理學院 (International Institute for Management Development, IMD)	世界競爭力年報 (IMD World Competitiveness Yearbook)	64	66	+2
4	政治風險服務組織 (Political Risk Services, PRS)	國際國家風險指南 (Political Risk Services International Country Risk Guide)	53	59	+6
5	貝特斯曼基金會 (Bertelsmann Foundation, BF)	轉型指標 (Bertelsmann Foundation Transformation Index)	77	77	0
6	世界經濟論壇 (World Economic Forum, WEF)	經理人調查 (World Economic Forum Executive Opinion Survey, EOS)	71	65	-6
7	政治經濟風險顧問公司 (Political and Economic Risk Consultancy, PERC)	亞洲情報 (Political and Economic Risk Consultancy Asian Intelligence)	55	51	-4
8	多元民主機構 (Varieties of Democracies, V-Dem)	多元民主計畫 (Varieties of Democracies Project)	56	58	+2

Attachment 2

Corruption Perceptions Indexes 2018 and 2017
by Transparency International
Scores and changes per country

Country/region	Comparison of rankings in CPI 2018 and 2017			Comparison of scores in CPI 2018 and 2017		
	Rank in CPI 2018	Rank in CPI 2017	Change	Score in CPI 2018	Score in CPI 2017	Change
Denmark	1	2	1	88	88	0
New Zealand	2	1	-1	87	89	-2
Finland	3	3	0	85	85	0
Singapore	3	6	3	85	84	1
Sweden	3	6	3	85	84	1
Switzerland	3	3	0	85	85	0
Norway	7	3	-4	84	85	-1
Netherlands	8	8	0	82	82	0
Canada	9	8	-1	81	82	-1
Luxemburg	9	8	-1	81	82	-1
Germany	11	12	1	80	81	-1
United Kingdom	11	8	-3	80	82	-2
Australia	13	13	0	77	77	0
Austria	14	16	2	76	75	1
Hong Kong	14	13	-1	76	77	-1
Iceland	14	13	-1	76	77	-1
Belgium	17	16	-1	75	75	0
Estonia	18	21	3	73	71	2
Ireland	18	19	1	73	74	-1
Japan	18	20	2	73	73	0
France	21	23	2	72	70	2
United States	22	16	-6	71	75	-4
United Arab Emirates	23	21	-2	70	71	-1
Uruguay	23	23	0	70	70	0
Barbados	25	25	0	68	68	0
Bhutan	25	26	1	68	67	1
Chile	27	26	-1	67	67	0
Seychelles	28	36	8	66	60	6
Bahamas	29	28	-1	65	65	0

Country/region	Comparison of rankings in CPI 2018 and 2017			Comparison of scores in CPI 2018 and 2017		
	Rank in CPI 2018	Rank in CPI 2017	Change	Score in CPI 2018	Score in CPI 2017	Change
Portugal	30	29	-1	64	63	1
Brunei	31	32	1	63	62	1
Taiwan	31	29	-2	63	63	0
Qatar	33	29	-4	62	63	-1
Botswana	34	34	0	61	61	0
Israel	34	32	-2	61	62	-1
Poland	36	36	0	60	60	0
Slovenia	36	34	-2	60	61	-1
Cyprus	38	42	4	59	57	2
Czech	38	42	4	59	57	2
Lithuania	38	38	0	59	59	0
Georgia	41	46	5	58	56	2
Latvia	41	40	-1	58	58	0
St. Vincent and the Grenadines	41	40	-1	58	58	0
Spain	41	42	1	58	57	1
Cape Verde	45	48	3	57	55	2
Dominican Republic	45	42	-3	57	57	0
South Korea	45	51	6	57	54	3
Costa Rica	48	38	-10	56	59	-3
Rwanda	48	48	0	56	55	1
Santa Lucia	50	48	-2	55	55	0
Malta	51	46	-5	54	56	-2
Namibia	52	53	1	53	51	2
Grenada	53	52	-1	52	52	0
Italy	53	54	1	52	50	2
Oman	53	68	15	52	44	8
Mauritius	56	54	-2	51	50	1
Slovakia	57	54	-3	50	50	0

Note: The Corruption Perception Index 2018 covers 180 countries and regions. This Table shows an excerpt of the 57 countries with a score above 50.