



Press Release by Agency Against Corruption, Ministry of Justice

Release Date: July 2, 2019

Released by: Corruption Prevention Division of
Agency Against Corruption, Ministry of Justice

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Making Friends with Integrity

First Good News about Diplomacy of Anti-Corruption 1st Anti-Corruption Cooperation Agreement Signed between Taiwan and Belize

In April 2018, the Agency Against Corruption organized the “2018 Conference on Anti-Corruption with States of Diplomatic Relations”, which invited the representatives from the authorities in charge of anti-corruption affairs of 5 states in Central America with diplomatic relations to exchange their systems on recusal from conflict of interest of public servants and share their experience in legislation of laws of protecting whistleblowers through special seminars and reports, and also observe Taiwan’s important anti-corruption transparency policies. All of the present representatives were so impressed by the aggressive actions taken by the Taiwan Government against corruption.

At the end of 2018, the Agency Against Corruption researched and prepared the draft of the anti-corruption cooperation agreement.

With the efforts spent by the Ministry of Justice and Ministry of Foreign Affairs, one of the states with diplomatic relations with Taiwan, Belize, showed its willingness to work with Taiwan in February 2019. Accordingly, at the 30th anniversary of the diplomatic relations established between Taiwan and Belize and also the 8th anniversary of the establishment of the Agency Against Corruption, on July 2, our Minister of Justice, Tsai Ching-hsiang, and Prosecutor General and also Minister of Justice of Belize, Michael Peyriffite, signed the anti-corruption cooperation agreement officially in the presence of witnesses including President Tsai Ing-Wen, Governor-General of Belize, Colville Norbert Young, and diplomats of both countries.

The agreement refers to the first anti-corruption cooperation agreement signed between Taiwan and the state of diplomatic relations. It not only means a lot but also symbolizes the significant progress of Taiwan's transnational anti-corruption cooperation mechanism, as well as the solid friendship between both countries. In the future, under the framework of the agreement, Taiwan and Belize will work with each other in such areas as "exchange and visit," "professional proficiency" and "law-enforcement information sharing" to lay a fair foundation for the anti-corruption cooperation and combat transnational crimes.

The Belize Government signed the United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC) on December 9, 2016 as the 184th state party. It also established its own anti-corruption commission. In November 2017, Prosecutor General and also Minister of Justice of Belize, Michael Peyriffite, led the delegation to attend the 7th meeting of UNCAC state parties in Vietnam. Meanwhile, Belize was also honored as the first country which submitted the self-assessment form

at the meeting. In the first half of 2018, the United Nations also sent experts to conduct the on-site survey in Belize.

The ROC's Initial Report under the United Nations Convention against Corruption has been released in March 2018, and in August, the Concluding Observations of the ROC's Initial UNCAC Report were proposed based on the review results provide by the international anti-corruption experts, as the important reference for the government to complete the anti-corruption policies, laws and regulations, and related tasks. Upon execution of the anti-corruption cooperation agreement between Taiwan and Belize, Belize may exchange with Taiwan the related experience in anti-corruption operations and assessment by the United Nations, so that Taiwan's anti-corruption legal system may respond to the international trends and practice the "Enhancement of International Cooperation" required under the UNCAC.