



Press Release – Agency Against Corruption, Ministry of Justice

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On July 14, 2014, the Agency Against Corruption, Ministry of Justice held the 2nd Clean Politics Advisory Committee Meeting of 2014. Chaired by Director-General Lai Che-hsiung, the meeting presented two reports, “New Sunshine Law Draft Bills and Measures” and “Challenge and Opportunity for Success of the Hong Kong ICAC”. Moreover, results of the preliminary review of pending cases for the current period and cases submitted for review at the meeting were examined.

To enable members of the Clean Politics Advisory Committee to understand AAC’s recent work priorities, the AAC presented a report on new sunshine law draft bills and measures, which concerned outdated regulations in the sunshine laws that the AAC are in charge of, such as the Act on Property-Declaration by Public Servants and the Act on Recusal of Public Servants Due to Conflicts of Interest. For example, the progress was described in the deliberation of amendments to controversial parts of the Act on Recusal of Public Servants Due to Conflicts of Interest regarding how to avoid violating the property rights, the right to work, and the principle of proportionality, as protected in the Constitution. Moreover, declarants had complained about the complexity of the declaration process prescribed in the Act on Property-Declaration by Public Servants, and thus, a new measure to replace paper-filing with e-filing and to make use of an examination platform for property declaration had been proposed, providing a more convenient channel for declaring properties. Common issues such as a declarant being penalized for making a false declaration intentionally were also examined to prevent the “sunshine act” from becoming the “scorching sun act”.

Furthermore, in regard to the report – “Challenge and Opportunity for Success of the Hong Kong ICAC”, the AAC hoped to learn from the successful experience of

the ICAC, which had enjoyed a support rate as high as 98% among Hong Kong residents since its founding in February 1974 and was ranked the 15th in the Corruption Perception Index 2013, to put anti-corruption and promotion of integrity into practice in Taiwan. In addition, the biggest crisis facing anti-corruption authorities, that their integrity were questioned and challenged by outsiders, was also reflected on. Therefore, it is hoped that the AAC and the personnel of various government employee ethics units can refrain from acting in breach of duty and can maintain unswerving integrity to gain the public's trust and support.

With regard to the case review procedure, review committee members carried out preliminary reviews on 225 pending cases for the current period and submitted 20 cases for discussion at the meeting, all of which had been approved for filing by members of the Clean Politics Advisory Committee. As for the valuable suggestions made by committee members on the work against corruption, the AAC will immediately begin work on making improvements for its operation to become more impartial and transparent so that, by deepening the implementation of AAC's work strategies, the public's expectation of anti-corruption work can be met achieved.