

President Ma, Ying-Jeou Meets New Chair of Transparency International, José Ugaz, Who Invites the ROC to Participate in “Anti-Corruption Agencies Strengthening Initiative” in Asia Pacific

President Ma, Ying-Jeou , accompanied by Minister of Justice Luo, Ying-Shay, met José Ugaz, the new Chair of Transparency International (TI) and Maren Thompson, Public Sector Integrity Programme Coordinator in Asia Pacific, to exchange international trends and independent governance experience in the afternoon on May 14, 2015. Chair Ugaz also visited the Agency Against Corruption (AAC), Ministry of Justice the next day (15th) and invited the ROC to participate in TI’s “Anti-Corruption Agencies Strengthening Initiative” in Asia Pacific.

The President indicated that Chair Ugaz investigated former President of Peru Fujimori’s involvement of corruption and prosecuted Fujimori and related involved a total of 1,500 people when he was Ad-Hoc State Attorney of Peru from 2000 to 2002. It was a world record breaking case which shared the same spirit of “no case is exempted” upheld by our country as we also bravely disclosed our own scandal in recent years.

The President further discussed with Chair Ugaz about the outcomes of promoting integrity in the ROC. For instance, our government formulated the National Integrity Building Action Plan as our policy of corruption prevention and investigation which referenced the National Integrity System (NIS) advocated by TI, as well as the United Nations Convention Against Corruption (UNCAC). The Ministry of National Defense also established the Inspector General’s Office and Ethics Office as a double supervision mechanism in 2013 to reform its system. The President also showed appreciation to Chair Ugaz for his presence when National Defense University signed a Cooperative Agreement on Integrity Education with TI Chinese Taipei earlier in the morning of that day (14th).

The President not only praised TI’s contribution to promote

anti-corruption around the globe and introduced the outcomes of integrity in our country, but also mentioned that there was a gap between the results of the Global Corruption Barometer (GCB) released by TI in 2013. The facts regarding the ROC's performance due to the representativeness of samples as well as the polling agency was unfamiliar with the ROC's circumstances. Chair Ugaz responded immediately that this situation has been noted and will be follow-up and reviewed.

Although the ROC is not a member of the UN, the President emphasized that our government has localized the UNCAC through legislation. The Enforcement Act of UNCAC formulated by the Ministry of Justice was legislated on May 5, 2015. A more complete legislative system of integrity in our country is being achieved in the future.

Chair Ugaz and Programme Coordinator Thompson were accompanied by Chair of TI Chinese Taipei Huang, Jung-Hu and Standing Board Member Chen, Chun-Ming to visit AAC in the morning of May 15, 2015 and were accommodated by Director-General Lai, Jer-Shyong. Chair Ugaz expressed that TI was currently drawing up "Anti-Corruption Agencies Strengthening Initiative" in the Asia Pacific in the hope of facilitating benchmarking and experience exchange by setting up evaluation indicators. In the meantime, the policy recommendation, resulting from the evaluation, will also be initiated based on the evidence from media and stakeholders. Chair Ugaz invited the ROC to participate in this initiation and will provide its draft to AAC for any comment. AAC will respond this invitation with enthusiasm and assess prudently.

This was Chair Ugaz's first visit to both East Asia and the ROC since he was elected as Chair of TI on October 19, 2014. In addition to meet with the President and visit the AAC, Chair Ugaz also met with Premier Mao of Executive Yuan and visited government organizations such as the Investigation Bureau. During his visit, Chair Ugaz praised our determination and achievement of promoting integrity building work several times to the President and Director-General Lai of the AAC as well as showing his concerns on the issues of the independence of integrity agencies and the prevention of enterprises' overseas bribery.



Courtesy: Office of the President website/news and events/press release/President Interview with Chair José Ugaz of TI (May 14, 2015)