

# “2015 Integrity Seminar – Focus and Innovation Regarding Corruption Prevention Strategies”

## Focus on Discussing Prevention Measures for Corruption-related Crimes



The Agency Against Corruption, MOJ, the Academy for the Judiciary, MOJ, and National Chung Cheng University cooperated to hold the “2015 Integrity Seminar – Focus and Innovation Regarding Corruption Prevention Strategies” at the Judiciary Academy from 9:30 a.m. to 16:00 p.m. on August 5, 2015. Specialists and scholars from academic circles were fascinated about the integrity topics on the scene, and more than 100 workers with practical experience from relevant authorities, such as integrity departments, prosecutor’s office, police administration, investigation, and engineering enthusiastically participated in the seminar. The seminar focused on discussing current significant corruption-related crime issues, the latest research trends and countermeasures to be used as references in planning relevant integrity policies and systems.

Lo, Ying-Shay, the Minister of the Ministry of Justice, mentioned in her speech that, according to the “Asian Intelligence” survey issued by Political & Economic Risk Consultancy on April 1, 2015, our country ranked No. 6 in the appraisal of all the countries (districts) in the Asian region this year, which is Taiwan’s highest rank in the past ten years. She further emphasized that our country established the Agency Against Corruption, MOJ in 2011, which is responsible for planning policies to eradicate corruption in administrative

institutions, which has substantially improved the anti-corruption capability of the government, prosecuted more corruption cases and resulted in more severe judgments; the effect has been remarkable. Integrity work is constant and must keep pace with the times. Through discussions from different viewpoints in today's seminar, more macroscopic ideas and countermeasures were proposed and became an important reference for the MOJ's governance and recommendations for law revisions. This effectively strengthened the corruption prevention mechanisms of our country. Tsai, Ching-Hsian, President of the Judiciary Academy, responded in his speech that doing a good job investigating and preventing corruption relied on the combined efforts of the practice circle and the prospective research of the academic sector to guide policy planning and effectively strengthen the government's integrity mechanisms. This is the important work of the Judiciary Academy and its Crime Prevention Research Center. Lai Zhe-Xiong, Director General of the Agency Against Corruption, further addressed in his speech from the view of frequent occurrences of recent relevant integrity topics on major national projects and policemen, which has given society a bad impression of the government. This has not only seriously damaged the government's image, but has also affected the promotion of government affairs and social progress. This

matter required focused and active responses; therefore, by inviting scholars and experts for further research and discussions at this seminar, we hope to make some progress.

This seminar especially invited Professor Hsu, Chun-chin from National Taipei University, Professor Tsai, Te-Hui from Ming Chuan University and Deputy Minister of Justice Chen, Ming-Tang to preside over the event. Professor Hsu, Hua-Fu, Associate Professor Ma, Yueh-Chung, and Professor Chen, Tzu-Hsing from National Chung Cheng University have all published papers on such major topics as “Procurement Corruption and Profiteering Crime – Taking Civil Participation in Public Works, False Specification Drawings and Untrue Equivalents Acceptance Inspection as Examples”, “Police Administration Corruption Criminal Patterns and Prevention Strategies”, and “Comparative Study on Eastern and Western Corruption Patterns and Prevention Strategies”, respectively. Su, Ming-Tong, Chief Secretary of the Public Construction Commission, Lin, Zhe-hui, Chief Secretary of the Agency Against Corruption, Chen, Da-wei, Director of the Civil Service Ethics Office of the National Police Agency, Professor Li, Tzung-Shiun of National Central Police University, Hsieh, Li-Kung, Consultant of the Executive Yuan and Professor Chen, Chun-Ming from Shih Hsin University all contributed to the

discussion on these topics.

Based on case analysis, Professor Hsu proposed five suggestions regarding procurement of corruption crime warnings, refining investigation contents and ensuring investigation results to consider, namely “Constructing a corruption warning performance assessment, adjusting performance assessment confusion, combining investigation with practice, cooperating with the legal system to analyze innocent judgments, and integrating research to propose law revision suggestions.” Chief Secretary Su echoed Professor Hsu’s statutory opinion in relevant case analysis with relevant stipulations on the technical specifications of the Government Procurement Act and further elaborated on internal and external prevention mechanisms, such as initiative reports from agencies, interagency collaboration, etc. In addition to showing the efforts of the Agency Against Corruption and Government Ethics Units to reduce the project corruption crime rate, increase the conviction rate, and develop prevention measures for procurement and project malpractice, Chief Secretary Lin also proposed four project corruption prevention acts, namely “encourage accusation, transparency, implement internal regulations, and strengthen performance management and ethics propaganda”.

From the Corruption Crime Protection Act and the Civil Servant Ethics Code point of view, Associate Professor Ma explored and analyzed the main reasons for police administration corruption-related crime through case study. These reasons are mainly due to professionals being unfamiliar with legal ethics rather than a lack of legal awareness or professionalism, and effective prevention relied on cultivating proper professional ethics of civil servants; therefore, he proposed such suggestions as “formulating a Whistleblower Protection Act, strengthening international judiciary assistance, reviewing illegal income investigations, and increasing civil servant’s remuneration”. Director Chen suggested that we should improve the ethical awareness of policemen by “starting from the heart”, so that they possess the psychological quality of integrity, satisfaction, caution, focus and care. Furthermore, Professor Li provided an international comparison and suggested supplementing relevant foreign prevention strategies for police administration corruption-related crimes, sharing the experience of implementing police integrity tests in Great Britain and the US as a reference, and emphasizing that a permanent cure still needed to start from education.

Through a comparative study, Professor Chen discussed the corruption phenomenon of civil servants from the reasons for

committing the corruption, as well as patterns and prevention strategies in eastern and western countries, concluding that a good legal system and policies can minimize corruption; he suggested moving forward in the direction of “blocking illicit benefits, properly expanding the application scope of relevant laws on civil servants, and improving personnel applicable and remuneration regulations”. Consultant Hsieh suggested developing an anti-corruption strategy with Taiwanese characteristics, improving the public’s trust of integrity, intensively studying the patterns of illicit interests and prevention measures, expanding the focus on corruption prevention into private departments, etc. in order to improve the overall competitiveness of the country. Furthermore, Professor Chen explained the definition of corruption varied from culture to culture and a “lack of transparency” was an important factor for the occurrence of corruption. Integrity governance required joint cooperation among the government, enterprises, citizen organizations (non-governmental organizations), etc. to awaken the public’s awareness of “zero tolerance” to corruption.

Through the publication of academic papers and discussion, this seminar shared current research experiences and achievements regarding corruption-related crime issues both at domestic and international, as well as studied and analyzed

corresponding improvement measures and made suggestions. During the panel discussion, Director General Lai of the Agency Against Corruption expressed his appreciations to the attending specialists and scholars for their valuable opinions, which will be the future direction for the Ministry of Justice and Agency Against Corruption to formulate integrity policies and corruption prevention strategies, and joint efforts will be continuously made for the sustainable development of national integrity. Participants at the seminar spoke enthusiastically and actively interacted with specialists and scholars, thus successfully achieved exchanging experiences.