



Press Release of the Agency Against Corruption, Ministry of Justice

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Contact person: Gao, Bo-yang, Planning division leader
Phone: (02)25675586#2021

A double blessing has descended upon the Agency against Corruption: The office building is officially launched, The agency receives APEC grant for international workshops

The Agency Against Corruption has launched the office building on December 9, the National Anti-corruption Day! Chiu, Tai-san, the Minister of Justice, attended the ceremony with the commissioners, procurators and chief procurators. In addition, scholars who have been concerning about issues against corruption and enterprises including Foxconn Technology Group and Formosa Plastics Group were present at the ceremony.

The Agency Against Corruption did not have its own offices, and the office rent was an additional administrative cost. The Executive Yuan allocated the Bo Ai Building of the Ministry of National Defense to build the office building located in No. 166, Bo'ai Rd., Taipei City at the end of 2016.

The minister, Chiu, Tai-san pointed that the building's yellow and white externals with the white frames display the transparent and rigorous image of AAC's endeavor to make our public sector incorruptible. It is the foundation of democratic politics and the key to gain people's trust. The government's insistence of fighting against corruption represents its pursuit of effectiveness in the technology competition era.

The agency showed its power for the implementation of international anti-corruption affairs on the launch day and convened a public forum on APEC Whistleblowing Protection Workshop by inviting experts from the industry, official, and academia to discuss and interflow about the protection system for whistleblowers.

The discussion is a warm-up to the APEC Anti-corruption Workshop in 2017. In June 2016, the agency and Papua New Guinea (2018 APEC host economy) have applied for a grant for the "APEC Workshop on Enhancing Whistleblower Protection in Corruption Cases Proposal" and is supported by more than eight economies including America, Vietnam (2017 APEC host country), Singapore and Malaysia. Moreover, the APEC Budget and Management Committee has passed the assessment and granted US\$90,000 for the workshop. That shows the agency's active participation in international anti-corruption issues.

Lai, Jer-Shyong, director-general of the Agency Against Corruption, addressed that APEC has concerned the issues of Whistleblower Protection since 2007. One of the key factors for the successful grant application is our align with international trends of whistleblower protection. The government has noticed the universal tendency, and the Agency Against Corruption has been

promoted whistleblower protection since 2011. The agency has drafted the Act and submitted it to the Executive Yuan for deliberation. The Act is mainly applicable to the public sectors. The Act prohibits inappropriate actions against whistleblowers and ensures the “identity confidentiality,” “working rights and interests” and “physical safety” of the whistleblower. The comprehensive protection measures are established to encourage the citizen to report malpractices with courage.

Tsai, Pi-Yu, the president of the Academy for the Judiciary, Ministry of Justice, briefly explained the process of drafting the Whistleblower Protection Act and the follow-up objective. She mentioned that the policies or systems of public and private sectors or even the changes of overall social and cultural values are involved in the Act. As a result, the Agency has to establish a complete whistleblower protection system and appeal to all people’s participation to fight corruption successfully.

Pu, Shu-sheng, general manager of British Standards Institution’s Taiwan Branch, stressed the importance for the establishment of Whistleblower Protection System in corporations. He emphasized that employers can discover problems and make solutions using the comprehensive and effective internal corruption reporting mechanism in the enterprise. Meanwhile, the mutual trust relations between employer and labor will be built by responding to the whistleblowers. Furthermore, this also promotes employees’ legal consciousness and reduces the illegal risk for the company.

Yang, Wu-long, professor of the Department of Government and Law, NUK, had a speech on “Current Situation and Tendency of International Whistleblower Protection System”. Though the Whistleblower Protection Act differs from one country to another, the main purpose is to encourage the members to report illegal acts in the organization and stimulate integral social development.

Lastly, the experts discussed their ideas for implementing the “APEC Workshop on Enhancing Whistleblower Protection in Corruption Cases” next year.