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Replies to initial questions raised by Legislative Council Members in examining the Estimates of Expenditure 2026-27

Director of Bureau : Commissioner, Independent Commission Against Corruption

Session No. : 6

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CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

ICAC001

(Question Serial No. 0218)

Head: (72) Independent Commission Against Corruption

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (4) Enlisting Support

Controlling Officer: Commissioner, Independent Commission Against Corruption

Director of Bureau: Commissioner, Independent Commission Against Corruption

Question:

As mentioned in the Programme, the HKIAAC delivered 20 international training programmes and reached out to 9 countries where it provided country-specific training programmes in 2025. Through the HKIAAC and, where appropriate, in collaboration with local law enforcement agencies, the ICAC will continue to provide specialised training for overseas anti-corruption agencies and related organisations (in particular those from Belt and Road countries) to enhance their capabilities in combatting and preventing corruption. In this connection, please inform the Committee of the following:

1. the specific themes and key contents of the international training programmes organised and the country-specific training programmes provided for the 9 countries in 2025, providing by country or region the details including names of the participating overseas agencies and total number of participants involved, for better understanding of their effectiveness;
2. the specific contents and key development directions of future training programmes, and whether specific performance indicators or targets are set for the number of training programmes, number of countries covered and expected number of participants for 2026-27;
3. details of the current staffing provision for planning and executing the above international and overseas training programmes; and
4. whether the ICAC has assessed the effectiveness of the above training programmes provided for overseas agencies in promoting Hong Kong's actual probity level, strong rule of law and fair business environment to the international community, and whether any mechanism is in place to objectively measure the practical contribution of such training and exchange efforts to enhancing Hong Kong's international reputation.

Asked by: Hon LAMPORT, Jonathan Stuart (LegCo internal reference no.: 11)

Reply:

1. Since its establishment in February 2024, the Hong Kong International Academy Against Corruption (HKIAAC) has been committed to providing strategic and targeted professional training for graft fighters and related personnel from around the world (especially those from Belt and Road countries) as well as constructing an exchange and research platform for experience sharing among experts and scholars worldwide. By leveraging the successful anti-corruption experience of the Independent Commission Against Corruption (ICAC) over the past half-century, the global network of the International Association of Anti-Corruption Authorities¹ (IAACA) and the HKIAAC’s own exchange and training platform, the HKIAAC is giving full play to the synergy of the tripartite partnership. Meanwhile, it is also consolidating its partnership with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime² (UNODC) to expand the global coverage of the ICAC’s anti-corruption collaborations.

Through a “going global and bringing in” dual strategy, the HKIAAC has been actively engaged in providing professional training for overseas anti-corruption agencies (ACAs) and related organisations. In 2025, a total of 20 international training programmes were organised, benefitting about 1 800 participants from across the globe. Details of the programmes are given in Tables 1 to 3 below.

Table 1 “Going Global”: Overseas Training Programmes Organised by the HKIAAC

	Participating Country / Region	Theme of Programme	Duration	No. of Participants
(a) Thematic Programmes				
1	7 member states of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) (Location: Thailand)	Regional anti-corruption training for ASEAN youth*	3 days	174
(b) Tailor-made Programmes for Individual Overseas ACAs and Related Organisations				
2	Brunei	Tailor-made training based on the needs of ACAs and related organisations, covering the “three-pronged” anti-corruption strategy, investigation and law enforcement techniques, meaningful youth engagement in anti-corruption initiatives, financial investigation, asset recovery and application of technologies	4 days	150
3	United Arab Emirates		5 days	26
4	Saudi Arabia		4 days	27
5	Brazil@		3 days	83
6	Thailand@		3 days	155
7	Hungary		4 days	36
8	Sri Lanka		3 days	120
9	Cambodia@		4 days	16
10	Kazakhstan*@		2 days	21

¹ Since 2022, the Commissioner of the ICAC has been serving as the President of the IAACA, with the IAACA Secretariat operated by the ICAC. The IAACA has a current membership of 193 organisations.

² The ICAC signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the UNODC in May 2024.

Table 2 “Bringing In”: Training Programmes Organised by the HKIAAC in Hong Kong

	Participating Country / Region	Theme of Programme	Duration	No. of Participants
(a) Thematic Programmes				
1	19 countries / regions [^]	Professional development programme on financial investigation and asset recovery* ^{&}	10 days	34
2	16 countries / regions [^]	Programme on mastering artificial intelligence and technologies in anti-corruption* ^{&}	10 days	31
3	10 countries / regions [^]	Leadership and executive development programme ^{&}	12 days	32
(b) In-depth Exchange with Individual Overseas ACAs and Related Organisations Visiting the ICAC				
4	Sri Lanka and Zambia	Study visits, exchanges and in-depth discussions on practical issues in graft fighting, and visits to ICAC facilities	5 days	11
5	Thailand		3 days	33
6	Mali		3 days	5
7	Kenya		3 days	6
8	Georgia		3 days	6

Table 3 Online Training Programmes

	Participating Country / Region	Theme of Programme	Duration	No. of Participants
1	Countries around the world [^]	Digital and accounting forensics*	Half day	845
2	Countries in Central Asia [^]	Financial investigation*	Half day	30

* The programme was co-organised with the IAACA and / or the UNODC.

@ The training was provided in collaboration with the Hong Kong Police Force, the Hong Kong Customs and Excise Department or the Commission Against Corruption of Macao.

[^] An exhaustive list is not available due to the large number of participating countries / regions, among which were Australia, Azerbaijan, Korea, Mongolia, Russia, Singapore, South Africa and Spain.

[&] The programme covered a study visit to the Mainland, whereby participants were given the opportunity to experience firsthand the latest developments and anti-corruption efforts of our country.

2. The HKIAAC will continue to strengthen its role as an international anti-corruption training hub, providing professional training for ACAs and related organisations worldwide (especially those from Belt and Road countries), thereby enhancing their capabilities in fighting and preventing corruption. To meet the growing demand for training, the HKIAAC will focus on organising large-scale regional anti-corruption training programmes in 2026. For example, a capacity building programme was

conducted in Egypt in February for graft fighters and related personnel from 5 Arab countries (Egypt, Algeria, Jordan, Libya and Saudi Arabia), aiming to scale up the benefits and impact of the training programme and foster regional collaboration. Similar regional programmes are scheduled to be held in various countries such as Hungary and Kenya during the year.

As for performance indicators, the HKIAAC plans to organise about 20 international anti-corruption training programmes in 2026, which are expected to benefit about 2 000 participants³.

3. Led by an Assistant Director of the Operations Department, who serves concurrently as the Director of Academy, the HKIAAC has an establishment of 23 posts responsible for planning and coordinating international and local training programmes, facilitating academic research and exchange, and handling related administrative work. In executing HKIAAC's training programmes, senior officers from various departments of the ICAC are deployed to serve as speakers to share and exchange practical expertise with participants from other countries. This not only ensures the provision of targeted and practical training to cater for the operational needs of ACAs and related organisations and enhance their professional capacities, but also broadens the international perspectives of ICAC officers, thereby facilitating ICAC's long-term talent development.
4. Through its international training programmes, the HKIAAC systematically introduces Hong Kong's unique advantages under "One Country, Two Systems", showcasing its robust rule of law, clean government, fair business environment and solid anti-corruption achievements. It also arranges study visits to the Mainland for participants of programmes conducted in Hong Kong to gain firsthand understanding of our country's latest developments and anti-corruption efforts.

To assess the effectiveness of its training programmes, the HKIAAC conducted surveys upon conclusion of the programmes, which indicated that participants from various jurisdictions found the programmes practical and comprehensive. They reflected that the programmes not only deepened their understanding of Hong Kong and the Mainland, but also left a lasting impression, and they looked forward to strengthening exchanges with the ICAC and the HKIAAC in the future. Many overseas participants also took the initiative to share their learning with peers and post positive reviews of the programmes on social media, where they shared their experiences in Hong Kong and the Mainland, spreading the anti-corruption stories of Hong Kong and our country to the international community, thereby bolstering the positive image of both.

HKIAAC's efforts have earned high international acclaim. Its contribution to international training has been praised by the Global Operational Network of Anti-Corruption Law Enforcement Authorities under the UNODC. Organisations such as the UNODC, the Anti-Corruption Initiative for Asia and the Pacific co-organised by the Asian Development Bank and Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, the International Anti-Corruption Academy and various overseas ACAs

³ This figure also covers the participants of around 10 local training programmes to be held by the HKIAAC in 2026.

have co-hosted programmes with the HKIAAC before. Many overseas ACAs also seek to arrange visits to the HKIAAC for exchanges and establishment of training collaborations. Some organisations that participated in previous HKIAAC's programmes have also expressed interest in receiving training from HKIAAC again. With its international training schedule all set for 2026, the HKIAAC will provide training for various ACAs from Central Asia, Africa, Arab countries, Europe, Southeast Asia and South America.

Over the years, Hong Kong has been holding top rankings in various global anti-corruption surveys (including the "Corruption Perceptions Index" released by Transparency International, the "World Competitiveness Yearbook - indicator of bribery and corruption do not exist" published by the International Institute for Management Development, and the "World Justice Project Rule of Law Index - absence of corruption")⁴. Through sustained international training efforts, the HKIAAC consistently showcases Hong Kong's deep-rooted probity culture, robust rule of law, clean government and fair business environment to the international community, playing a pivotal role in bolstering Hong Kong's international image and reputation and telling its good stories.

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⁴ Hong Kong was ranked the 12th least corrupt place globally in the "Corruption Perceptions Index 2025" released by Transparency International, the 4th under the indicator of "bribery and corruption do not exist" in the "World Competitiveness Yearbook 2025" published by the International Institute for Management Development, and the 9th under "absence of corruption" in the "2025 World Justice Project Rule of Law Index".

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

ICAC002

(Question Serial No. 1060)

Head: (72) Independent Commission Against Corruption
Subhead (No. & title): ()
Programme: (1) Corruption Prevention, (2) Operations
Controlling Officer: Commissioner, Independent Commission Against Corruption
Director of Bureau: Commissioner, Independent Commission Against Corruption

Question:

In regard to corruption in building maintenance works in Hong Kong, will the Commission inform this Committee of (a) the number of reports received; (b) the number of prosecutions related to these reports; (c) the number of convictions; (d) the amounts involved in the cases concerned; and (e) the number of proactive investigations initiated by the ICAC in connection with the building management sector, each year between 2020 and 2025?

Asked by: Hon HUNG Kam-in (LegCo internal reference no.: 10)

Reply:

Building management and maintenance matters are closely related to people's livelihood. The relevant issues are complex and involve a diverse range of stakeholders. Given that corruption complaints related to the industry have accounted for more than one-third of all private sector corruption complaints over the years, the Independent Commission Against Corruption (ICAC) has always remained alert to the corruption situation in the industry.

2. Corruption is a highly insidious crime, given that the offeror and acceptor of a bribe are both beneficiaries of the act. Apart from investigating reported cases of corruption, the ICAC also aims to uncover unreported corruption activities by adopting a proactive approach, including initiating investigations based on intelligence, and expanding the scope of investigations in response to intelligence gathered during the course of the investigations.

3. In order to safeguard the overall interests of property owners and residents, the ICAC also adopts an early intervention strategy. Through timely enforcement actions, it reminds owners and residents of potential corruption risks during the awards of contracts or works implementation, aiming to promptly frustrate related illegal activities, crack down on corrupt individuals and minimise the impact on owners and residents.

4. The corruption complaints figures in relation to the building management and maintenance industry between 2021 and 2025 are as follows (the ICAC has not compiled statistics on the works amounts involved in individual cases):

	Number of Corruption Complaints concerning Building Management and Maintenance¹		
	General Building Management	Building Maintenance²	Total³
2021	372	177	549
2022	276	144	420
2023	305	239	544
2024	324	185	509
2025	225	242	467

5. The numbers of persons arrested, prosecuted and convicted in relation to the building management and maintenance industry in the same period are as follows:

	Number of Persons Arrested		Number of Persons Prosecuted⁴		Number of Persons Convicted⁴	
	General Building Management	Building Maintenance	General Building Management	Building Maintenance	General Building Management	Building Maintenance
2021	27	5	16	1	13	2
2022	16	5	8	2	5	1
2023	29	64	13	30	11	1
2024	15	44	13	0	4	2
2025	4	50	1	5	9	3

6. The numbers of buildings/estates involved in the proactive investigations and early intervention actions conducted by the ICAC in the same period are as follows:

	Number of Buildings/Estates Involved	
	Proactive Investigation	Early Intervention
2021	5	2
2022	21	3
2023	16	9
2024	17	13
2025	17	11

¹ Corruption complaints related to building management and maintenance can be categorised into “General Building Management” and “Building Maintenance”. “General Building Management” refers to matters related to building management (excluding maintenance), such as those involving the building’s general operations, security, cleaning, car parks and staff management; whereas “Building Maintenance” includes “Large-scale Maintenance”. According to the definitions under the Buildings Management Ordinance, Chapter 344, Laws of Hong Kong, “Large-scale Maintenance” refers to works involving an amount exceeding \$30,000 per household.

² Approximately 30% of these complaints concerned large-scale maintenance.

³ Approximately 85% of these complaints were pursuable complaints.

⁴ The number of persons prosecuted/convicted represents the total number of persons prosecuted/convicted in the year. The cases prosecuted/convicted in a given year do not necessarily originate from the complaints received in the same year as it takes time to proceed from investigation to prosecution and completion of court proceedings.

7. The ICAC will continue to pay close attention to corruption risks in the building management and maintenance industry, and sustain its three-pronged strategy encompassing robust law enforcement, systemic prevention and community education to combat corruption and other illicit activities in the industry in collaboration with relevant government departments and regulators, so as to safeguard the rights of property owners and residents.

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CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

ICAC003

(Question Serial No. 2130)

Head: (72) Independent Commission Against Corruption

Subhead (No. & title): ()

Programme: (3) Preventive Education

Controlling Officer: Commissioner, Independent Commission Against Corruption

Director of Bureau: Commissioner, Independent Commission Against Corruption

Question:

The ICAC plays an important role in upholding social justice and improving the business environment. Regarding the estimates and work plan for 2026/27, please advise on the following:

- (a) In 2025/26, the ICAC completed a total of 67 assignment reports. Please list, by “government department”, “public body” and “private sector”, the number of reports in different categories.
- (b) How many recommendations have the ICAC provided on corruption prevention in relation to building management and maintenance? What is the acceptance rate of the recommendations among the organisations involved? As of now, what percentage of the recommendations have been fully implemented?
- (c) What technology-based corruption prevention measures (e.g. the application of artificial intelligence in analysis of engineering works data and verification of academic qualifications) will be prioritised this year? What is the specific implementation plan? What is the estimated expenditure involved? How many government departments and public bodies are expected to be covered?
- (d) In 2025, how many corruption prevention and integrity education activities were hosted by the ICAC specifically for overseas talents admitted under the Top Talent Pass Scheme and imported workers? What is the number of participants? Will there be new education programmes in 2026/27? If so, please provide the estimates and expected coverage; if not, please provide the reasons.

Asked by: Hon WONG Kam-leung (LegCo internal reference no.: 46)

Reply:

- (a) The Independent Commission Against Corruption (ICAC) examines public and private sector procedures through assignment studies, makes recommendations to reduce corruption risks and monitors their implementation. In 2025, the ICAC completed a total of 67 assignment reports, of which 38, 17 and 12 concerned government departments, public bodies and the private sector respectively. The reports mainly covered reviews on the systems and functions of various departments/organisations and researches on the corruption prevention systems in various industries/areas of work.
- (b) Building management and maintenance (BMM) has always been a key area of work for the ICAC. In the past 3 years, the ICAC provided, through assignment reports, a total of 100 recommendations to relevant government departments and public bodies on their BMM-related systems and measures, including the amendment of the Building Management Ordinance and related administrative guidelines (e.g. mechanism for declaration of conflict of interest in the tendering of large-scale maintenance projects, “Instrument of Proxy” (commonly referred to as “proxy voting”) arrangements); administration of the mandatory building inspection and building rehabilitation subsidy schemes; registration and regulation of building professionals and companies; and supervision of minor works. 55 of these recommendations have been implemented. The ICAC will continue to follow up on the implementation of the remaining recommendations with the relevant departments and public bodies in accordance with statutory requirements. During the same period, the ICAC also offered, through provision of practical guidelines on corruption prevention, advisory services and training/exchange programmes, over 400 pieces of corruption prevention advice on various procedures, such as the handling of conflict of interest, engagement of project consultants/contractors and works supervision, to BMM stakeholders including members of owners’ corporations, flat owners and practitioners of the property management and maintenance industries, in order to further enhance their corruption prevention awareness and capabilities, enabling them to mitigate corruption risks in the planning and management of building maintenance projects.
- (c) To tie in with the Government’s policy of promoting innovation and technology development, the ICAC promulgated the “InTECHgrity Framework” in 2025, providing a framework on preventing corruption through digitalisation for government departments and public bodies. The *Practical Guide to Implementing the InTECHgrity Framework* was also developed to facilitate departments/organisations to consider incorporating corruption risk control measures, including access control and identity authentication setting, data-sharing with other departments/organisations and features supporting data-driven decision-making, into the design of their digital systems. The ICAC is liaising with the Digital Policy Office to work out a mechanism mandating all government departments, which apply for funding to digitalise their work processes, to incorporate into their digital systems appropriate corruption prevention functionalities as recommended by the *Guide*. In addition, the ICAC is advocating the adoption of technology or digitalisation for corruption prevention in various industries, such as applying big data analysis and AI technologies for the detection of anomalies in procurement procedures and document authentication. The ICAC will continue to offer timely advice to public and private organisations, with a view to enhancing their corruption prevention capabilities in work processes.

- (d) Through diverse online and offline channels, and in collaboration with relevant government departments and organisations (including the Labour Department, the Hong Kong Talent Engage, the Construction Industry Council, etc.), the ICAC has been reaching out to incoming talents and imported workers admitted under various schemes to promote the integrity culture of Hong Kong.

In 2025, the ICAC organised nearly 300 corruption prevention and integrity education activities for incoming talents and imported workers, reaching over 41 000 participants. Imported workers of all industries were required to attend a briefing session on the anti-corruption laws within 8 weeks upon their arrival in Hong Kong, and were provided with an information pack to facilitate their understanding of the relevant legislation. In addition, the ICAC put up publicity posters at the workplaces/quarters of imported workers in the construction industry, major border control points, cross-border coach terminals, Registration of Persons Offices under the Immigration Department; and issued posts, short videos, promotional leaflets, etc., through online and social media platforms commonly used by Mainlanders for extensive dissemination of probity messages.

In support of the Top Talent Pass Scheme, the ICAC organised talks for approximately 4 000 incoming talents through the Hong Kong Talent Engage; set up an information booth at the 2025 Hong Kong International Talents Festival to promote integrity messages to talents arriving from the Chinese Mainland and overseas; and with the assistance of relevant service units, invited incoming talents to visit the ICAC and learn about the ICAC's work and services.

In 2026-27, the ICAC will not only sustain its efforts in implementing the above corruption prevention and integrity education activities, but also introduce quarterly thematic exchange sessions. These sessions will bring together newly arrived talents according to their professional backgrounds for in-depth exchanges with ICAC officers, so as to enable a more precise understanding of their service needs, thereby optimising the related integrity promotion efforts.

The programmes and activities mentioned in (c) and (d) above fall within the regular duties of the ICAC. They are organised and implemented with existing manpower, and the resources involved are included in the overall estimated expenditure and staffing establishment of the ICAC.

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