**2019 Annual Report**

**Independent Commission Against Corruption**

**Hong Kong Special Administrative Region**



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**Independent Commission Against Corruption**

**Hong Kong Special Administrative Region**

Submitted to the Chief Executive of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region in accordance with section 17 of the Independent Commission Against Corruption Ordinance (Cap 204).

**Independent Commission Against Corruption**

**Mission Statement and Code of Ethics**

With the community, the ICAC is committed to fighting corruption through effective law enforcement, education and prevention to help keep Hong Kong fair, just, stable and prosperous.

Officers of the ICAC will at all times uphold the good name of the Commission and

* adhere to the principles of integrity and fair play;
* respect the rights under the law of all people;
* carry out their duties without fear or favour, prejudice or ill will;
* act always in accordance with the law;
* not take advantage of their authority or position;
* maintain necessary confidentiality;
* accept responsibility for their actions and instructions;
* exercise courtesy and restraint in word and action;
* strive for personal and professional excellence.

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**Chapter 1 Introduction**

The Independent Commission Against Corruption (ICAC) was established on 15 February 1974 with the enactment of the Independent Commission Against Corruption Ordinance (Cap 204).

Before then, the detection and investigation of corruption was the responsibility of the Anti-Corruption Office of the Hong Kong Police Force. The decision to set up an independent organisation to tackle corruption was made by the then Governor following a Commission of Inquiry into the problem of corruption in Hong Kong and other related matters.

**CONSTITUTION**

The ICAC derives its charter from the ICAC Ordinance. Its independence is guaranteed in Article 57 of the Basic Law and established by the Commissioner being formally and directly responsible to the Chief Executive. In carrying out its work, the ICAC functions as an independent organ of the public service.

**ORGANISATION**

The ICAC comprises the office of the Commissioner and three functional departments - Operations, Corruption Prevention and Community Relations - serviced by the Administration Branch. Its organisation is shown in the chart at Appendix 1.

**ADVISORY COMMITTEES**

The work of the ICAC comes under the scrutiny of independent committees comprising responsible citizens drawn from different sectors of the community and appointed by the Chief Executive. Reports on the work of the Advisory Committee on Corruption, the Operations Review Committee, the Corruption Prevention Advisory Committee and the Citizens Advisory Committee on Community Relations are contained in a separate publication. Membership lists of the four advisory committees are at Appendix 2.

**RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE COMMISSIONER**

The Commissioner is directly responsible to the Chief Executive for the following duties set out in section 12 of the ICAC Ordinance:

1. to receive and consider complaints alleging corrupt practices and investigate such of those complaints as he considers practicable;
2. to investigate -
3. any alleged or suspected offence under this Ordinance;
4. any alleged or suspected offence under the Prevention of Bribery Ordinance (Cap 201);
5. any alleged or suspected offence under the Elections (Corrupt and Illegal Conduct) Ordinance (Cap 554);
6. any alleged or suspected offence of blackmail committed by a prescribed officer by or through the misuse of his office;
7. any alleged or suspected conspiracy to commit an offence under the Prevention of Bribery Ordinance (Cap 201);
8. any alleged or suspected conspiracy to commit an offence under the Elections (Corrupt and Illegal Conduct) Ordinance (Cap 554); and
9. any alleged or suspected conspiracy (by two or more persons including a prescribed officer) to commit an offence of blackmail by or through the misuse of the office of that prescribed officer;
10. to investigate any conduct of a prescribed officer which, in the opinion of the Commissioner, is connected with or conducive to corrupt practices and to report thereon to the Chief Executive;
11. to examine the practices and procedures of government departments and public bodies, in order to facilitate the discovery of corrupt practices and to secure the revision of methods of work or procedures which, in the opinion of the Commissioner, may be conducive to corrupt practices;
12. to instruct, advise and assist any person, on the latter’s request, on ways in which corrupt practices may be eliminated by such person;
13. to advise heads of government departments or of public bodies of changes in practices or procedures compatible with the effective discharge of the duties of such departments or public bodies which the Commissioner thinks necessary to reduce the likelihood of the occurrence of corrupt practices;
14. to educate the public against the evils of corruption; and
15. to enlist and foster public support in combating corruption.

**Chapter 2 Commissioner’s Review**

The year 2019 marked the 45th year of the establishment of the Independent Commission Against Corruption (ICAC). The year also saw a series of public protests and social events which brought unprecedented challenges to the Government and our society as a whole. In this difficult time, the ICAC remains perseverant to continue its anti-corruption mission without fear or favour and discharge its duties independently and impartially to sustain a culture of integrity and contribute to maintaining strong rule of law in Hong Kong.

A CITY WITH ENTRENCHED PROBITY CULTURE

No Hong Kong people will deny that probity is one of the key pillars of Hong Kong’s solid foundation. According to our intelligence and analysis, Hong Kong continues to have a low level of corruption. This is also reflected in the *ICAC Annual Survey 2019* which showed that the public had a zero tolerance of corruption. On a scale of 0 (total intolerance) to 10 (total acceptance), the mean score of tolerance of corruption of the respondents was 0.3, the lowest since the question was asked in 2010. Most of the respondents of the survey, i.e. 98.1%, had not encountered corruption personally in the past 12 months. An overwhelming majority, i.e. 98.7% of the respondents, considered keeping Hong Kong corruption-free is important to the overall development of Hong Kong, demonstrating that the public embraced integrity as essential for keeping the vibrancy of the city.

Internationally, Hong Kong has continued to be regarded as one of the cleanest cities in the world. Our city was ranked the 10th among 200 economies and the first in Asia in the *2019 TRACE Bribery Risk Matrix* as compiled by TRACE International. The *Corruption Perceptions Index 2019* released by Transparency International rated Hong Kong the 16th among 180 places.

To sustain this probity culture, the ICAC has been spending meticulous efforts to bust corruption and nip this scourge in its bud through the persistent use of the time-tested three-pronged strategy of law enforcement, prevention and education.

SYNERGISING THE THREE-PRONGED STRATEGY TO KEEP CORRUPTION AT BAY

The ICAC stays vigilant in discharging its enforcement duties, making corruption a high-risk crime with strong deterrent effect. The ICAC received 2 297 non-election related corruption complaints in 2019, representing a decrease of 14% when compared with 2018. Of these complaints, 64% concerned the private sector, 28% were related to government departments and 7% involved public bodies. In the year, 157 persons in 90 cases were prosecuted. The person-based and case-based conviction rates for non-election offences were 75% and 79% respectively.

The year 2019 saw the beginning of a new cycle of public elections. The ICAC received 623 complaints related to the Elections (Corrupt and Illegal Conduct) Ordinance, including 518 complaints concerning the District Council Election (DCE) held in November. Despite the enormous challenges brought by the social unrest, the ICAC maintained its unwavering determination to uphold the integrity of the election. The ICAC helped review the draft amendments to the electoral legislation and update the guidelines for the DCE, launched multi-faceted education and publicity programmes to promote clean elections and took swift enforcement actions against electoral corruption and malpractices. The ICAC also proactively reviewed the election processes with the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau after the DCE and would propose further preventive measures and education efforts to enhance the electoral arrangements for future elections.

Turning to non-election related complaints, the downward trend of the corruption complaints concerning Building Management continued in 2019. Complaints on this sector experienced a 25% decrease when compared with 2018. While three building rehabilitation subsidy schemes, i.e. Operations Building Bright 2.0, Lift Modernisation Subsidy Scheme and Fire Safety Improvement Works Subsidy Scheme, had come into operation, the ICAC received only a few complaints relating to these schemes. Nevertheless, the ICAC had stayed alert to the possible corruption risks by regularly reviewing the corruption scene and continuing its integrated strategy to address the problem. This included deploying the two-pronged enforcement strategy combining the traditional approach of investigation for prosecution with early intervention actions in appropriate cases; providing corruption prevention advice to enhance the procedures and control of the aforementioned subsidy schemes, and offering preventive education to stakeholders to raise their alertness to corruption risks.

To uphold market integrity and maintain confidence of the international community in the Hong Kong’s financial system, the ICAC adopted a collaborative approach with the regulators concerned in the finance and insurance sector. A Memorandum of Understanding was signed with the Securities and Futures Commission, which covered referral of cases, joint investigations, mutual provision of investigative assistance, etc., to formalise and strengthen our cooperation. This collaborative approach was extended to the insurance industry in which the ICAC joined hands with the Insurance Authority and 12 industry bodies to launch a two-year “Integrity for Success” Ethics Promotion Campaign to enhance practitioners’ professional ethics. In the same vein, the ICAC also cooperated with the Hong Kong Exchanges and Clearing Limited and assisted listed companies in establishing and reviewing their anti-bribery management systems, and enhancing the disclosure of anti-corruption information. Furthermore, concurrent corruption prevention input was provided to the Hong Kong Monetary Authority in its procedures for processing virtual banking licence.

**Engaging the public**

The ICAC has long held the belief that the success in fighting against corruption cannot be sustained without the support of the whole community and keeping the public alert to the grave harms corruption will cause to the society. The ICAC thus continued its robust effort to entrench the culture of probity in society through public engagement, education and publicity in the year. A major part of our work included working through a network of Ethics Officers in government bureaux/departments to manage integrity, conducting anti-corruption training for government officers at all levels, providing tailored business ethics training for different trades and professions, organising widespread community engagement activities and using multi-media channels extensively to disseminate anti-corruption message.

The ICAC remains committed to nurturing the younger generation with integrity values through education and involvement programmes for the youth at different learning stages. Animated teaching resources on moral education for kindergarteners and junior primary students featuring the cartoon character *Gee-Dor-Dor* were produced during the year. As in past years, the ICAC staged interactive drama performance and the iTeen Leadership Programme for secondary students, delivered lectures on Personal Ethics Module for tertiary students as well as recruited tertiary students as ICAC Ambassadors to design and organise on-campus integrity promotion activities. Selected ICAC Ambassadors could also join the ICAC’s summer internship programme which enables them to gain first-hand working experience in the ICAC. Looking ahead, different initiatives were under preparation for young people including a two-year multi-media “Youth-for-Youth” co-creation project with the aim to further engage young people to promote awareness of the anti-bribery laws to their peers via social media. It is hoped that these activities would not only help develop their talents but also instill the core value of integrity in our younger generation and inspire them to carry the anti-corruption baton into the future.

**45TH ANNIVERSARY – A TIME TO REKINDLE PUBLIC COMMITMENT AND SUPPORT**

After 45 years of community-wide graft-fighting, there is a consensus in the society to keep Hong Kong clean for sustained development and to maintain a level playing field where people of different ages, genders, races and social backgrounds can pursue their aspirations. In fact, the success of Hong Kong in combating corruption exemplified the importance of unfailing public support and constant involvement of citizens in making Hong Kong the way it is in respect of high intolerance of corruption. The 45th Anniversary of the ICAC in 2019 was a timely occasion for us to double our efforts to strengthen connection with the community to further entrench the culture of probity in the society.

Deploying an extensive repertoire of online and offline methods, an array of territory-wide activities was organised to rekindle the commitment and support of the community to carry on the anti-corruption fight all sectors alike. A 45-day online countdown to the anniversary day was staged on social media platform to usher in the campaign, followed by an Open Day event to enhance ICAC’s transparency and enable the populace to have a better understanding of the work of the ICAC in person. The ICAC also participated in the Hong Kong Book Fair to promote our educational initiatives to the wider community in particular parents and children. Together with a local television station, the ICAC produced another edition of our signature television drama series *ICAC Investigators 2019*. This “edutainment” product, adapted from real ICAC cases, serves to raise public awareness against corruption. Using “ICAC coffee” as creative concept, a series of coffee-sharing activities across the territory, tram body publicity campaign, and a corporate Announcement in the Public Interest were launched in the year with much positive feedback. By featuring in our activities this ubiquitous drink, which has a unique association with the ICAC, we had been able to commemorate with different generations the anti-corruption journey our city has gone through in the past 45 years.

**FOSTERING INTERNATIONAL AND CROSS-BOUNDARY ANTI-CORRUPTION TIES**

Corruption remains a global concern as the corrupt will flee from one jurisdiction to another while the illegal proceeds will flow around the globe taking advantages of loopholes and differences in the legal and financial systems. The challenges are well recognised at the Eighth Session of the Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC) which I attended in December in United Arab Emirates as a member of the Chinese delegation.

As an active member of the international anti-corruption community with over four decades’ experience in fighting and preventing corruption, it is incumbent upon the ICAC to do our part to stem corruption on both local and international fronts. In the year, the ICAC made good progress in enhancing its international and regional network. In May, the 7th ICAC Symposium jointly organised by the ICAC and the World Justice Project provided a platform for over 500 participants from more than 50 jurisdictions to exchange ideas, experiences and best practices in fighting corruption and enhancing the rule of law. Immediately after the Symposium, an inaugural capacity building training programme jointly organised by the ICAC and the International Association of Anti-Corruption Authorities was hosted for some 180 anti-corruption experts in Hong Kong.

To fulfil our international obligation as designated authority to assist other States Parties in developing and implementing preventive measures under the UNCAC, the ICAC continued to collaborate with and provide technical assistance to anti-corruption agencies of other countries to build up their anti-corruption capacity. So far, the ICAC has engaged with over 50 UNCAC States Parties which are also Belt and Road countries. In 2019, the ICAC provided nine customised capacity building training programmes for eight countries reaching a total of 160 participants. For the first time, the ICAC hosted a special event during the Eighth Session of the Conference of the States Parties to the UNCAC to introduce Hong Kong’s time-tested anti-graft strategy and practices thereby opening new fronts of exchange and collaboration with our counterparts.

Riding on past collaboration with anti-corruption authorities in Mainland China and Macao, the ICAC would strengthen cooperation on combating and preventing corruption with the anti-corruption agencies in Guangdong and Macao under the framework of the *Outline Development Plan for the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area*. Following the release of the Plan in February, a tripartite meeting with the heads of the Guangdong Provincial Commission of Supervision and the Commission Against Corruption of Macao was held in May. The three parties agreed in principle to join hands to strengthen efforts in combating cross-boundary corruption, promoting integrity culture, organising capacity building programmes for graft-fighters, and holding regular meetings to review the progress of the collaboration.

**Looking Forward**

Hong Kong has come a long way in fighting corruption since the establishment of the ICAC. Over the past decades, our city has faced many challenges and difficulties but we have come out stronger every time. As an institution that has developed with our city and surmounted different turbulences together, the ICAC would continue to discharge our anti-corruption duties and unwaveringly uphold our mission to help keep Hong Kong fair, just, stable and prosperous.

**Chapter 3 Administration Branch**

**Duties**

The Administration Branch (ADM) assists the Commissioner in exercising his statutory duties under the Independent Commission Against Corruption (ICAC) Ordinance (Cap 204), including matters relating to:

* Revision and execution of the Commission Standing Orders;
* Control of finance and estimates of expenditure;
* Human resource management;
* Staff relations and welfare; and
* Publication of *ICAC Annual Report*.

Other administrative matters include:

* Communications and media relations;
* International liaison and training;
* Procurement and supplies of goods and services;
* Office accommodation management;
* General office support;
* Translation;
* Records management; and
* Green management.

**StrategIES**

ADM serves the three functional departments, and oversees the consistent application of and compliance with government regulations and procedures in processing management and administrative matters within the ICAC.

**STRUCTURE**

The organisation of ADM is shown in Figure 3-1.

Figure 3-1: Organisation of the Administration Branch

**Finance Matters**

The ICAC is financed from a single head of expenditure. Its annual estimates are considered by the Advisory Committee on Corruption, before submission to the Chief Executive for approval in accordance with section 14(1) of the ICAC Ordinance. The ICAC’s accounts are administered according to government regulations and procedures and are subject to examination by the Director of Audit in the same way as the accounts of other government departments.

**Human Resource Management**

The establishment and staff strength of the ICAC as at 31 December 2019 are shown in Figure 3-2. During the year, 55 departmental grades officers and 31 general and support grades officers ceased service with the ICAC, resulting in an overall wastage rate of 6.1 per cent.

Figure 3-2: Establishment and staff strength of the ICAC

**Strength**

**1 413**

**Establishment**

**1 501**

ICAC staff are normally appointed on gratuity-bearing agreements. Some 76 per cent of the staff are employed in grades special to the ICAC and are remunerated on the ICAC Pay Scale. Their pay and conditions of service are subject to the advice of the Standing Committee on Disciplined Services Salaries and Conditions of Service. The remaining staff members belong to general and support grades and are paid the same salaries as their counterparts in the Civil Service.

**Training and Development**

The Human Resource Development Section is responsible for the training and development of officers from the Community Relations Department, the Corruption Prevention Department, ADM and the General and Support Grades, as well as arranging non-professional training for officers of the Operations Department. The Section also manages the training facilities of the ICAC, including the Learning Resources Centre, the ICAC Training Camp, multi-purpose hall, gymnasium and the Cyber Learning Centre.

In 2019, various professional development programmes, management courses, leadership and resilience building seminars, language training, thematic seminars and national studies courses were organised to help officers keep abreast of the latest trend in their related fields and further enhance their professional, management, language and job skills.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Course Title | Number of Participants |
| Seminars on Development of Creative Concepts from Different Perspectives, Virtual Reality and Augmented Reality and Design Thinking | 117 |
| Knowledge Sharing Seminars on National Supervisory Reform in the Mainland, Corporate Governance and Managing Public Works Projects | 377 |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Professional Skills Training on Design Thinking, Application of Mediation Skills in Complaint Handling in Workplace, How to Deal with Difficult People, Communication and Professional Etiquette and Image | 169 |
| Leadership and Resilience Building Series | 413 |
| Management Skills Training on Emotional Quotient Management and Interpersonal Communication Skills, Influencing and Persuasion, Team Building through Virtual Reality Experience and Dialogue in the Silence Experience | 107 |
| Briefings on Mobile Phone Security and Software Applications Training | 934 |
| Courses on Effective Writing and Editing Skills, Professional English Writing, Writing English Promotional Materials and Advanced Chinese Grammar | 71 |
| Briefing on Administrative Matters and Records Management | 123 |
| National Studies and Putonghua Courses | 143 |
| Departmental and General Grades Officers Induction Courses covering legal knowledge, management skills, job skills and organisational knowledge | 31 |
| Enhancement Training for Departmental and General Grades Officers covering legal knowledge applications, supervisory skills, team building and communication skills | 79 |
| Trainings Provided by Civil Service Training and Development Institute, other government departments / public bodies and external training providers | 1 194 |

**Staff Relations and Welfare**

Staff Relations Section is responsible for overseeing staff relations and welfare matters in the ICAC. It supports the ICAC Staff Club to organise sporting, recreational and social activities regularly for staff and their family members to promote healthy life style and work-life balance. The Section is also responsible for enhancing communication between management and staff members on subjects of staff concerns, looking after the staff’s wellness and providing support to staff in need.

**Staff Consultative Committee –  
10 meetings conducted**

* To allow staff to directly express their views on matters relating to conditions of service, welfare and issues of common concern.

**9 Welfare Visits involving 65 staff members**

* To enhance communication between the management and frontline officers on welfare matters and foster a caring culture in the ICAC.

**36 Sporting, recreational and social activities organised by Staff Club**

* To promote a healthy life style and work-life balance among staff.

**2 Seminars on financial management attended by 102 staff members**

* To encourage staff to plan ahead for retirement and wiser corresponding use of resources at various stages of life.

**45 Staff proposals received via Staff Suggestions Scheme resulting in 15 awards**

* To encourage staff to contribute improvement suggestions on making the best use of resources, enhancing work efficiency and promoting green management, etc.

**Credit Union registering 816 members and total savings of $150 million**

* To promote thrift and provide credit facilities to its members in accordance with the Credit Unions Ordinance (Cap 119).

**Occupational Safety and Health**

The ICAC is committed to providing and maintaining a safe and healthy work environment for all staff. A total of 92 officers are now serving as occupational safety and health (OSH) managers in different units to assist in the implementation of various OSH initiatives and measures, such as Display Screen Equipment Assessment and Office Safety Inspection. To equip the newly appointed OSH managers with the knowledge for carrying out risk assessment in workstations, the ICAC had arranged 10 newly appointed OSH managers to attend the Certificate of Competence in Display Screen Equipment Assessment Course.

During the year, 278 officers were provided with various OSH training including Seminar on Emotional Resilience Building, Typhoon Handling Course, Safety Talk on Manual Handling, Display Screen Equipment and General Office Safety. To promote the awareness of OSH, panel exhibition on “Work Stress Management” had been displayed in the ICAC Building. The ICAC also updated and disseminated OSH information through intranet regularly.

**Green Management**

The ICAC is committed to promoting an environmentally friendly culture and integrating green measures into our office operation and environment. A dedicated Environmental Management Committee, headed by the Assistant Director (Administration) and assisted by a team of Departmental Green Managers is tasked to review and monitor the ICAC’s environmental performance. The Committee also analyses feedback and suggestions on green management and actively identifies new green initiatives. In 2019, the ICAC continued to implement and organise the following green measures and activities.



**communications and media relations**

The Communications and Media Relations Office advises the senior management on the formulation of media strategies, implements the media plans and provides corporate media support service as required. Through maintaining effective communications and close rapport with the media, the Office strives to keep the public abreast of ICAC’s anti-corruption initiatives and enhance its transparency, as well as to promote probity messages through various media platforms.

During the year, the Office issued a total of 198 press releases on ICAC’s major activities, court cases and preventive education initiatives. Timely responses were also delivered to address issues of media concern. Apart from regular day-to-day liaison, the Office handled about 240 enquiries from the media in 2019.

ICAC officers from different departments and units gave a total of about 20 press briefings and interviews on various anti-corruption initiatives during the year. In addition, the Office regularly collaborated with local newspapers and online media to run feature articles and publicity campaigns in relation to various events and programmes, such as the ICAC 45th Anniversary, the 7th ICAC Symposium as well as the Clean District Council Election Campaign.

The Office also coordinated an annual press briefing for chairmen of the four advisory committees overseeing ICAC’s work to review their job during the year.

**international liaison and training**

The International Liaison and Training Group (ILT) is responsible for co-ordinating non-operational international liaison and promoting ICAC’s work in the global arena, providing international anti-corruption capacity building and consultancy service, and conducting anti-corruption research and analysis.

On offering training assistance and consultancy service to anti-corruption agencies of other jurisdictions within the framework of the United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC), the ILT has established connections with over 50 countries which are States Parties of the UNCAC. In the year, field studies were conducted in Asia (Bhutan, Indonesia, Laos, Mongolia and the Philippines) and Europe (Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Moldova, Romania and Serbia) to study their corruption situations and anti-corruption regimes, and explore possible capacity building collaborations. Nine tailor-made capacity building programmes were conducted, including four outreach training programmes in Moldova, Serbia and Timor-Leste, and five training programmes in Hong Kong for Bangladesh, Indonesia, Mongolia, Singapore and Vietnam, with a total of 160 participants.

On Mainland liaison, the Commissioner visited the National Commission of Supervision and the Ministry of Public Security in Beijing in April to enhance cross-boundary cooperation in the fight against corruption. Following the release of the *Outline Development Plan for the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area*, the Commissioner led a delegation to visit counterparts in Macao in April, and Guangzhou and Shenzhen in May to discuss collaboration on strengthening synergy in anti-corruption mechanism, ensuring level playing field for business and enhancing the clean culture in the Greater Bay Area. The ICAC, Guangdong Provincial Commission of Supervision and Commission Against Corruption of Macao agreed to meet regularly to advance the tripartite cooperation.

The ILT continued to update the international community on Hong Kong’s latest integrity environment and robust anti-corruption regime through the online platform “International Perspective” on the ICAC’s corporate website, electronic newsletters and visit programmes. In March, the Chair of the Transparency International visited the ICAC to observe first hand Hong Kong’s robust anti-corruption work and probity culture. Taking the opportunity of the 7th ICAC Symposium in May, a visit programme was organised for the Executive Director of the World Justice Project, and 35 bilateral meetings were held with overseas delegations and international organisations to exchange experience and explore cooperation.

To share with the international community Hong Kong’s anti-graft model, the Commissioner and senior officers of the ICAC spoke at various international events overseas and locally, including the Fraud and Corruption Conference in New Zealand, the IMD World Competitiveness Centre 30th Anniversary Conference in Switzerland, the TRACE Bribery and Economic Crime Summit in Canada, the 22nd United Nations Asia and Far East Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders – UNCAC Training Programme in Japan, the 32nd LAWASIA Conference in Hong Kong, and a training course for graft-fighters organised by the Anti-Corruption and Civil Rights Commission of the Republic of Korea.

The ILT coordinated and conducted research projects on different subjects to support the anti-corruption training and consultancy services. With a library having a collection of books, journals, literature and legal publications, the ILT continued to provide local and overseas academia and practitioners with useful resources for anti-corruption studies.

**Awards and Commendations**

In 2019, two officers were awarded the Hong Kong ICAC Medal for Distinguished Service, three officers were awarded the Hong Kong ICAC Medal for Meritorious Service, one officer was awarded the Medal of Honour, one officer was awarded the Chief Executive’s Commendation for Government/Public Service. One hundred and thirty officers also received long service awards. In addition, one officer received the ICAC Commissioner’s Commendation and 14 officers received the ICAC Heads of Department’s Commendations.

**Non-Local Visitors**

As one of the leading anti-corruption agencies in the world, the ICAC regularly shares its experience in fighting and preventing corruption with organisations from all over the world. In the year, 2 653 persons from 19 international organisations and 63 countries and territories visited the ICAC.

**Chapter 4 Operations Department**

**STATUTORY DUTIES**

* Receive and consider allegations of corrupt practices.
* Investigate any alleged or suspected offences under the Independent Commission Against Corruption Ordinance (ICACO) (Cap 204), the Prevention of Bribery Ordinance (POBO) (Cap 201), and the Elections (Corrupt and Illegal Conduct) Ordinance (ECICO) (Cap 554).
* Investigate any alleged offences of blackmail committed by a prescribed officer through the misuse of office.
* Investigate any conduct of a prescribed officer, which is connected with or conducive to corrupt practices and report thereon to the Chief Executive.

**STRUCTURE**

The Operations Department (OPS) is the investigative arm and the largest department of the Independent Commission Against Corruption (ICAC). It is led by the Head of Operations, who is also the Deputy Commissioner, assisted by two Directors of Investigation, one responsible for the public sector and the other for the private sector. OPS is organised into four investigation branches, each overseen by an Assistant Director.

**POWER**

Investigating officers are empowered to arrest without warrant any person for offences stipulated in the above three anti-corruption ordinances and for offences connected with or facilitated by corruption that are disclosed in the course of investigation. The powers to enter and search premises for evidence of these offences are normally granted by the court under judicial warrants.

**OPERATIONS REVIEW COMMITTEE**

The investigative work of the ICAC is overseen by the Operations Review Committee (ORC). The ORC meets regularly to review reports prepared by OPS. These reports include:

* current major investigations and their updates;
* cases investigated by the ICAC for over 12 months;
* reports on persons on ICAC bail for over six months;
* reports on results of prosecutions and any subsequent appeals; and
* reports on completed investigations.

All ICAC cases must be submitted to the ORC for scrutiny. Without ORC’s endorsement, the ICAC will not conclude an investigation.

**PROSECUTION OF CASES**

The consent of the Secretary for Justice is required for the prosecution of any of the offences listed in Part II of the POBO. In practice, the ICAC seeks the advice of the Department of Justice before commencing any prosecution.

**SOURCES OF CORRUPTION CASES**

***Corruption Complaints***

Members of the public are encouraged to report corruption or suspected corruption in person to the ICAC Report Centre or any of the seven Regional Offices. Alternatively, a complainant may contact the ICAC via the Complaint Hotline (25 266 366) or by letter (GPO Box 1000). Directorate officers of OPS consider all complaints on each working day to decide whether to investigate, or where appropriate to refer them to other government departments or public bodies for action.

***Proactive Approach***

OPS adopts a proactive strategy in the detection of unreported corruption and the identification of potential areas for corrupt practices. This approach demonstrates the determination of the ICAC to seek out and eradicate corruption wherever it may be, and is proven effective in uncovering serious cases of corruption which might otherwise have remained unreported.

**STATISTICS ON CORRUPTION COMPLAINTS**

Excluding election-related complaints, OPS received a total of 2 297 corruption complaints in 2019, representing a decrease of 14 per cent from that in 2018. The number of pursuable complaints was 1 738, or 76 per cent of the total, representing a decrease of 14 per cent when compared with 2 015[[1]](#footnote-1)Δ complaints recorded in 2018. A breakdown of the corruption complaints received in 2018 and 2019 by sector is shown in Figure 4-1.

As regards election-related complaints, 623 complaints (590 pursuable) were received in 2019. Out of those 590 pursuable complaints, 70 and 492 were related to the 2019 Rural Representative Election held in January and the 2019 District Council Election held in November respectively. Among those complaints in respect of the District Council Election, 153 related to the publishing of false or misleading statements about candidates, 113 concerned the use of force or duress against candidates, 96 related to bribing of electors and others, and 62 concerned corrupt conduct with respect to voting at elections.

**Figure 4-1 Corruption Complaints (Excluding Election-related Complaints)**

**Recorded by Sector in 2018 and 2019**

**2018 2019 2018 2019 2018 2019 2018 2019**

506

(19.0%)

465

(20.3%)

170

(7.4%)

183

(6.9%)

266

1 480

(64.4%)

1 776

(66.6%)

322

46

57

182

(7.9%)

49

200

(7.5%)

1 214

1 454

124

126

198

267

209

297

133

62

138

Private Sector

Public Bodies

Government Bureaux/

Departments

(excluding HKPF)

Hong Kong Police Force (HKPF)

Non-Pursuable Pursuable

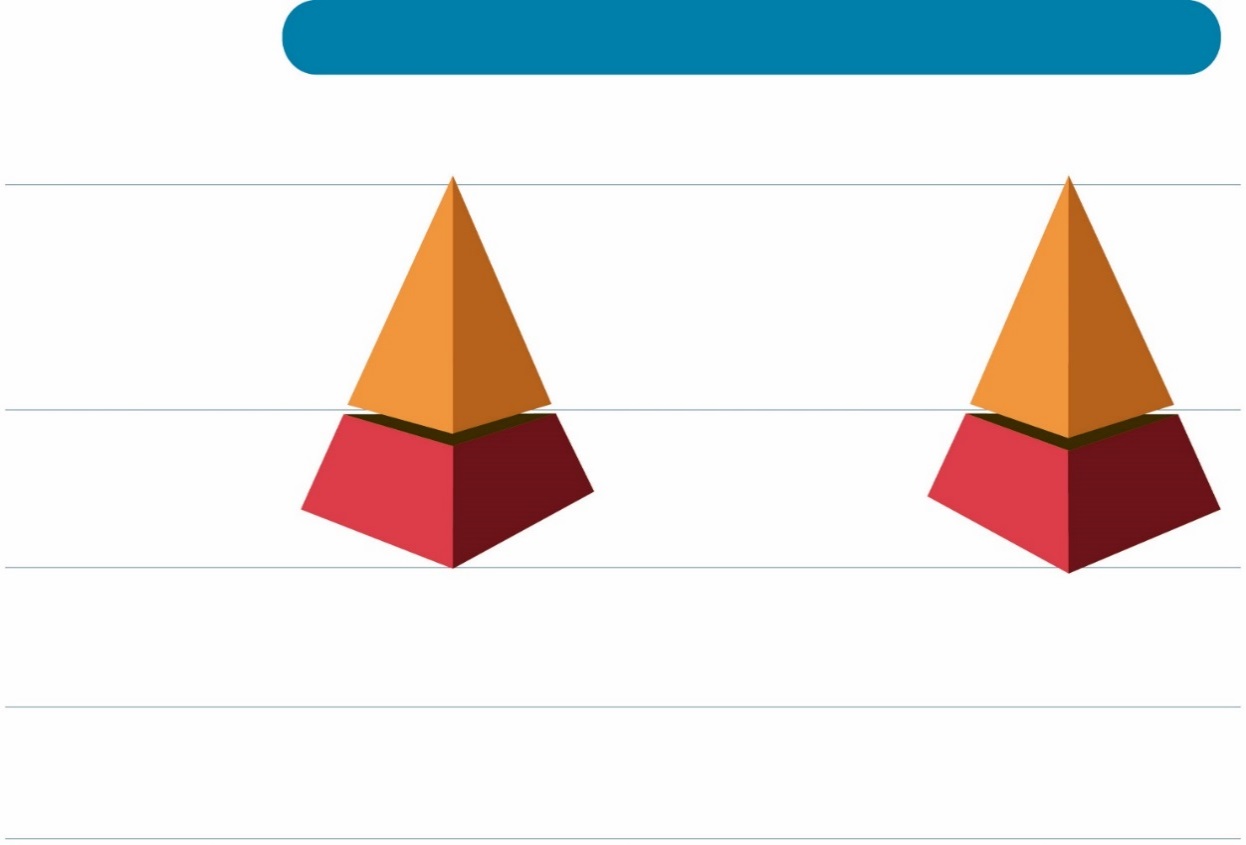
( ) represents percentage to total corruption complaints (excluding election-related complaints)

**INVESTIGATIONS AND PROSECUTIONS**

***Investigations***

In 2019, OPS handled 1 703 new cases (excluding election-related cases), a decrease of 14 per cent as compared to 1 975Δ cases (excluding election-related cases) in 2018. At year end, 1 937 cases were completed and 108 were pending legal advice. A comparison of the number of cases carried forward and completed in 2018 and 2019 is set out in Figure 4-2. Detailed breakdowns of the time taken to complete investigation of cases are shown at Appendices 3 to 5. Separately, OPS handled 589 new election-related cases in 2019.

**Figure 4-2 Statistics on Caseload in 2018 and 2019  
(Excluding Election-related Cases)**



Cases completed (from those commenced during the year)

**-706#**

**1 703**

**1 387**

**-1 231@**

**-763**

**1 436**△

**-1 163**

**1975△**

Cases carried forward

Total caseload during the year

3 362△ 3 139

1 436△ 1 202\*

**2019**

Cases completed (from those brought forward)

Cases brought forward from previous years

New Cases

**2018**

△ Figures revised to take account of the updating of reclassified cases and completed cases.

# The time taken to complete investigation of these cases is shown at Appendix 3.

@ The time taken to complete investigation of these cases is shown at Appendix 4.

\* The time taken to investigate outstanding cases is shown at Appendix 5.

***Prosecutions and Cautions***

Not all offenders are prosecuted. The guidelines issued by the Department of Justice provide that a caution may be administered for minor offences when it is considered not in the public interest to prosecute. In 2019, 157 persons were prosecuted and 20 formally cautioned. A breakdown of the number of persons prosecuted or cautioned since 1974 is shown at Appendix 6.

Of those prosecuted, 13 were government servants, 8 from public bodies and 125 from the private sector. The remaining 11 private individuals prosecuted were involved in corruption and related offences during the course of their dealings with public servants. Appendix 7 shows the number of persons from various government bureaux/departments, public bodies and the private sector prosecuted in 2019 for corruption and related offences.

Among the 136 private individuals prosecuted, 26 persons were charged for their involvement in corrupt transactions in the private sector contrary to section 9 of the POBO, one person for offering advantages to a public servant contrary to section 4(1) of the POBO, one person for conspiring with a public servant to solicit and accept advantages contrary to section 4(2) of the POBO, 20 persons with offences under the ECICO and the Electoral Procedure (Rural Representative Election) Regulation, and 88 persons with offences connected with or facilitated by corruption or other related offences.

Appendix 8 shows the types of corruption and related offences prosecuted in 2019. A breakdown of the number of persons prosecuted for these related offences is shown at Appendix 9.

Additionally, in handling relatively minor electoral breaches, the Department of Justice would advise the issue of a warning letter to the offender if it is considered not in the public interest to prosecute or caution the person. In 2019, 55 such warnings were issued by the ICAC mainly concerning failure to lodge election return in accordance with the requirements set out in section 37 and/or section 23(3) of the ECICO and illegal conduct in publishing election advertisements that included false claim of support contrary to section 27 of the ECICO.

***Referrals***

During the year, the ICAC made 219 referrals of non-corruption nature to relevant government departments and public bodies, details of which are provided at Appendix 10.

**DISCIPLINARY OR ADMINISTRATIVE ACTION AGAINST GOVERNMENT SERVANTS**

On the recommendation of the ORC, reports on alleged misconduct of 91 government servants, compared to 87 in 2018, were forwarded to the heads of government bureaux/departments concerned for consideration of disciplinary and/or administrative action in 2019. Cases involving 12 officers were resolved by the end of the year, resulting in disciplinary action taken against seven of them. Cases involving 63 officers carried forward from preceding years were completed in the year, resulting in disciplinary action taken against 42 officers.

**REPORT CENTRE AND DETENTION CENTRE**

***Report Centre***

The Report Centre operates on a 24-hour basis to receive reports and enquiries from the public. Reports and enquiries made to the Regional Offices are also referred to the Report Centre for handling. In 2019, 72 per cent of complainants identified themselves when reporting corruption.

**Figure 4-3 Mode of Reporting Corruption   
(Excluding Election-related Reports) – 2019**

**Identifiable**

**Complainants**

**All**

**Complainants**

|  |
| --- |
| Referred by Government Bureaux/Departments & Public Bodies |
| By Fax |
| By E-mail |
| By Letter |
| By Phone |
| In Person |

***Detention Centre***

OPS provides comprehensive detention facilities for persons detained under ICAC’s custody. The power to detain arrested persons is provided for in section 10A(2) of the ICACO. The ICAC (Treatment of Detained Persons) Order (Cap 204(A)) sets out the rights and entitlements of persons detained. Persons under detention receive a *Notice to Persons Detained* in both Chinese and English containing details of the Order. This Notice is also displayed in cells, interview rooms and various conspicuous places in the Detention Centre.

In 2019, OPS arrested 564 persons, 31 of whom were government servants, as compared to 494 arrested (27 government servants) in 2018.

During the year, Justices of the Peace visited the Detention Centre on 24 occasions. The purpose of these visits is to ensure that the detention facilities are properly maintained and that any requests or complaints that detainees may wish to make are recorded. Every visit is reported to the Director of Administration, thus facilitating external monitoring of ICAC’s detention facilities.

**QUICK RESPONSE TEAM**

The Quick Response Team deals with minor cases, enabling OPS’s investigation branches to focus on cases of substance and complexity. Notwithstanding their minor nature, the cases will also be submitted to the ORC for scrutiny. During 2019, 202 minor corruption cases were handled by the Quick Response Team, representing 12 per cent of the pursuable cases received (excluding election-related cases), as compared to 347 cases or 18 per cent in 2018.

**FORENSIC ACCOUNTING**

Established in 2011, the Forensic Accounting (FA) Group comprises dedicated Forensic Accountant Grade officers with professional qualifications and extensive forensic accounting experience. It provides support to investigating officers in dealing with cases involving increasingly sophisticated modus operandi from a financial perspective. The support includes the provision of expert opinion in relation to financial and accounting matters as well as the provision of assistance in search operations. Training courses are also provided by FA Group officers to investigating officers to enhance their skills and knowledge in financial investigation. During 2019, the FA Group provided assistance in 90 cases concerning 253 target individuals and companies in connection with transactions of an aggregate sum of approximately $9.3 billion.

**PROCEEDS OF CRIME**

To enhance the capability of the ICAC to deprive criminals of their corrupt and illicit crime proceeds, the Proceeds of Crime Section was established in 2010 to deal with restraint, disclosure and confiscation of assets under the Organised and Serious Crimes Ordinance (Cap 455). In 2019, assets amounting to $18.5 million were restrained following the making of one Restraint Order, and one Confiscation Order was obtained for $1.46 million. In addition, applications for confiscating $92.7 million worth of realisable assets, in relation to two cases, were being dealt with by the courts.

The Section also represented ICAC to participate in the mutual evaluation of Hong Kong's anti-money laundering (AML) and counter-terrorist financing (CTF) regime by the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) and the Asia-Pacific Group on Money Laundering. In September 2019, the FATF issued a report, which assessed Hong Kong's AML/CTF regime to be compliant and effective overall, making it the first jurisdiction in the Asia-Pacific region to have achieved an overall compliant result in the 4th round of FATF evaluation.

The ICAC, being one of the stakeholders, provided inputs on technical compliance with the FATF standards, on immediate outcomes that measures Hong Kong's effectiveness of the AML/CTF regime, and on the national risk assessment which identifies money laundering threats and vulnerabilities. In relation to the 4th round mutual evaluation of Hong Kong, the ICAC also attended interviews conducted by the FATF assessors and took part in deliberations at the FATF Plenary and Working Group meetings.

**WITNESS PROTECTION**

Success in criminal investigation and prosecution depends largely on the ability and willingness of witnesses to testify for the prosecution in criminal proceedings. In this regard, witness protection programmes are established and maintained in accordance with the Witness Protection Ordinance (Cap 564) to provide protection and other assistance to witnesses whose personal safety or well-being may be at risk as a result of being witnesses for the ICAC. The ICAC has a dedicated section and specially trained officers to deal with matters concerning witness protection.

**OPERATIONAL LIAISON**

The ICAC works in partnership with various sectors in its fight against corruption. In particular, OPS has established operational liaison channels with various government departments and public bodies. In 2019, liaison meetings were held with these counterparts, including those from local disciplined services, to discuss matters of mutual interest. Besides, upon invitation of the Hong Kong Police Force, three directorate officers of the ICAC, one from each department, attended meetings of the Force Committee on Integrity Management to discuss matters concerning integrity of police officers.

In 2019, meetings between directorate officers of OPS and the Prosecutions Division of the Department of Justice were also held, during which both sides exchanged their views on legal and enforcement issues of mutual concern.

**International and Mainland Liaison and Mutual Assistance**

In 2019, the ICAC continued to maintain effective operational liaison and cooperation with international, Mainland and Macao anti-corruption and law enforcement agencies. During the year, the International and Mainland (Operational) Liaison Section of OPS arranged ICAC officers to visit the Mainland on eight occasions for interviewing 11 witnesses in the Mainland; on one occasion for interviewing two witnesses in Macao; and on one occasion for interviewing one witness overseas. With the assistance of the Anti-Corruption Unit of Cambodia, one witness travelled to Hong Kong from Cambodia to testify in court in an ICAC case.

The Section also offered assistance on a total of five occasions to officials from respectively the National Commission of Supervision, the People’s Procuratorate of Guangdong Province and the Commission Against Corruption of Macao to interview a total of seven witnesses in Hong Kong.

Pursuant to the Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters Ordinance (Cap 525), the United Nations Convention against Corruption and the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organised Crime, authorised ICAC investigators may conduct enquiries into corruption-related matters in response to requests from overseas law enforcement agencies and judicial authorities. In 2019, the ICAC handled 71 requests (including 20 requests received in 2019). In return, the ICAC may also secure assistance from its overseas counterparts in conducting enquiries in their jurisdictions. During the year, our counterparts in Japan, Switzerland, Thailand, the United Kingdom and the United States of America handled eight ICAC’s requests under the Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters Ordinance for investigative assistance.

The ICAC recognises the importance of collaboration with overseas anti-corruption counterparts, as well as international and regional organisations, in preventing and fighting corruption. In particular, the ICAC is an active member of the international anti-corruption community, including the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Anti-Corruption and Transparency Experts Working Group, the Asian Development Bank and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development - Anti-Corruption Initiative for Asia and the Pacific, and the Economic Crime Agencies Network, which is a global network of law enforcement agencies formed in 2013 to deal with corruption and economic crimes.

To enhance mutual co-operation, senior officers of OPS received and met with delegations from the Mainland including the People’s Procuratorate of Zhejiang Province and the Discipline Inspection and Supervision Office at the People’s Bank of China, the Cybercrime Command of Singapore Police Force, the Corrupt Practices Investigation Bureau of Singapore, the Immigration and Customs Enforcement of the Department of Homeland Security and the Federal Bureau of Investigation of the United States of America. Furthermore, ICAC officers attended 29 liaison functions and meetings with the Consulate Generals and their legal attachés in Hong Kong including Australia, Canada, France, Germany, India, Japan, Korea, Mongolia, the United Kingdom and the United States of America.

**INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY**

The Information Technology Management Unit provides information technology (IT) advice and support including the formulation of IT strategy and information security policy for the ICAC. It maintains a secure, reliable and stable IT infrastructure to facilitate ICAC’s daily operation. The Unit has been developing and enhancing application systems with a view to streamlining ICAC’s administrative and investigative processes and meeting the evolving IT and operational needs.

With IT being an integral part of the daily life of private individuals as well as public and private organisations, criminals are quick to exploit IT to facilitate their illicit activities. The Computer Forensics Section provides support to frontline investigators in retrieving, securing and analysing electronic data for identifying valuable information for investigation and producing admissible evidence in court. In 2019, the Section took part in 57 operations and processed 262 terabytes of data contained in the digital devices seized. The Section also maintains close liaison with other local and overseas law enforcement agencies and the IT industry to keep abreast of the latest trend and development in this area.

**STAFF DISCIPLINE**

***Internal Investigation and Monitoring***

The ICAC’s internal investigation and monitoring group (L Group) is responsible for investigating breaches of staff discipline, non-criminal complaints against the ICAC or its staff, as well as allegations of corruption against ICAC staff. Operationally it is under the direct command of the Director of Investigation (Private Sector) who reports the results of internal investigations relating to non-criminal complaints directly to the Commissioner.

An independent ICAC Complaints Committee monitors and reviews the handling by the ICAC of non-criminal complaints against the ICAC or its staff, and identifies any faults in ICAC procedures which lead or might lead to complaints.

All investigations into allegations of corruption and related criminal offences against ICAC staff are referred to the Secretary for Justice for advice and all completed investigations are reported to the ORC. Criminal complaints not relating to corruption are referred to the appropriate authority, usually the Hong Kong Police Force, for investigation.

***Non-Criminal Complaints Against ICAC or its Staff***

During the year, 16 non-criminal complaints made against the ICAC or its staff were processed. One of the complaints was received in 2016, another in 2018 and the remaining 14 in 2019.

The complaints received in 2016 and 2018 were found unsubstantiated.

Of the 14 complaints received in 2019, two were found substantiated or partially substantiated, nine were unsubstantiated and three were still under investigation by the end of the year. In the first substantiated case, an officer had failed to identify himself by producing his warrant card to a person whose premises was the subject of a search warrant, as the concerned officer joined the search operation when another officer was explaining the content of the search warrant to the person and did not find an opportunity to identify himself to the person. The concerned officer was given advice by a senior officer. In the second case, the allegation against an officer who had failed to acknowledge her receipt of an email sent by a complainant within the required timeframe was found substantiated, while the allegation against another officer who had not performed diligently when preparing a seizure list during an interview with the complainant and failed to prepare suitable equipment and sufficient number of seizure lists for the occasion was found partially substantiated. The officers were respectively given advice by a senior officer as to the requirement of handling an incoming correspondence in a timely manner and sending an interim reply as and when necessary, and the importance of performing diligently when preparing investigation-related documents. Besides, in one of the unsubstantiated complaints, although the original allegation against three officers of the Community Relations Department was not substantiated, they were given advice by a senior officer to heighten their professional sensitivity when dealing with election-related matters.

***Allegations of Corruption Against ICAC Staff***

In 2019, L Group investigated two cases of suspected corruption and related criminal offences concerning ICAC officers. Investigation into both cases revealed no evidence of corruption or other offences. Legal advice was sought and the cases were reported to the ORC.

**TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT**

The Training and Development (T&D) Group is responsible for:

* recruitment of departmental grades staff in OPS;
* provision of investigation and legal training, professional development and confrontation management skills for departmental grades officers;
* formulation of policies on career development and administration of a Mentoring Programme in OPS for young Assistant Investigators and Investigators; and
* development of the Information and Knowledge Management System in OPS.

Underpinning all T&D initiatives is the mission to train and develop officers into anti-corruption professionals with the highest integrity and competencies so as to seek out and eradicate corruption wherever it exists.

Training for newly recruited Assistant Investigators covers a two-and-a-half year period and is split into three induction courses totalling 24 weeks interspersed with on-the-job training. In late 2018, a recruitment exercise for Assistant Investigators was concluded and the successful candidates attended an induction course stage I between September and December 2019. The new recruits received intensive training on a wide range of subjects, including law, rules of evidence, investigative skills, computer forensics, financial investigation, interviewing techniques, physical fitness and team building. Another recruitment exercise has commenced in September 2019 which aims to recruit another batch of Assistant Investigators in late 2020.

In 2019, two refresher courses targeting experienced Assistant Investigators and Senior Investigators were organised. These courses updated officers on the latest anti-corruption knowledge and skills, and allowed them to share their unique investigation experience hence facilitating knowledge exchange among themselves.

All frontline investigating officers were also provided with confrontation management refresher training, with 412 officers attending 44 training sessions held throughout the year.

During the year, 48 in-house courses and seminars with an accumulated attendance of 1 772 officers were conducted. Professional knowledge workshops on a diverse array of subjects, including financial investigation concerning listed companies, election cases sharing and Magistrates’ Court appearances, were also conducted. One hundred and twenty two officers from OPS benefited from local external courses in both the public and private sectors. Separately, 23 officers participated in overseas training provided by reputable institutions and law enforcement agencies.

The T&D Group also organises command courses to enhance officers’ leadership and professional capabilities. Two command courses were organised in 2019, namely the Investigators’ Command Course and the Chief Investigators’ Command Course.

The Chief Investigators’ Command Course is an international senior command course designed for middle managers in a law enforcement environment who have the potential for further advancement within their respective agencies. It represents ICAC’s commitment to training and capacity building under the United Nations Convention against Corruption and in support of the Belt and Road Initiative. Apart from 10 ICAC officers, the 2019 course offered places to 15 non-ICAC participants coming from anti-corruption counterparts and law enforcement bodies in Hong Kong, the Mainland, Macao, Bhutan, Fiji, Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, South Africa and Timor-Leste. A comparative study visit to Changsha was also arranged as an integral part of the course to allow participants to gain an understanding of the anti-corruption work and legal system in the Mainland. The course broadened the horizons of the participants and helped them devise a roadmap to become more effective leaders.

***Training Facilities***

The ICAC Building is equipped with modern training facilities, including a shooting range complex, a multi-purpose hall, a gymnasium, computer training rooms, a mock court, and video interview training rooms. The ICAC Training Camp in Tuen Mun has full classroom facilities, mock rooms for operational skills training such as arrest and search scenarios and an outdoor high event challenge course.

**Chapter 5 Corruption Prevention Department**

**Statutory Duties**

* Examine the practices and procedures of government departments and public bodies with a view to securing revision of work methods or procedures which may be susceptible to corrupt practices.
* Provide corruption prevention advisory services to public organisations and, on request, private organisations and individuals.

**StrategIES**

* Adopt a partnership approach with government departments and public bodies to prevent corruption through good governance and system controls.
* Accord priority to areas important to people’s livelihood and public safety, and those involving substantial amounts of public money and major public projects.
* Adopt a prevention at source strategy by providing early, interactive input to the Government and public bodies in respect of their new initiatives, services and systems to ensure corruption prevention safeguards are built in at the formulation and early implementation stages.
* Accord equal priority to preventing corruption in the private sector, and adopt a cross-sector strategy to foster public-private sector collaboration in enhancing business integrity and preventing corruption in different industries.

**STRUCTURE**

Corruption Prevention Department (CPD) is organised into seven Assignment Groups and a Management Group.

***Assignment Groups***

Each Assignment Group is responsible for the corruption prevention work for a number of government departments and public bodies and specialises in one or more functional areas such as procurement, law enforcement, civil service integrity, and public works. One of the Assignment Groups also serves as the Corruption Prevention Advisory Service (CPAS), dedicated to handling requests for corruption prevention service from private organisations.

***Management Group***

It assists in strategic planning for and provides administrative support to CPD.

***Staffing***

CPD staff include professionals of different disciplines such as accountants/auditors, construction professionals, information technology specialists, and experienced public servants from different government departments and public organisations.

**REVIEW OF WORK**

During the year, CPD continued to address and prevent risks of corruption in areas of public administration that are important to people’s livelihood or public safety, issues of public interest or concern, and programmes and projects involving substantial amounts of public money, covering such areas as public works, public procurement, public health, government funding schemes, law enforcement and regulatory functions. It also continued to help maintain a level-playing field and corruption free environment for business to facilitate healthy and sustainable economic development.

Deliverables achieved in 2019:

* Completed 70 assignment reports, with detailed review of the corruption risks and recommended measures for enhancement of specific systems and related practices primarily in government bureaux/departments (B/Ds) and public bodies.
* Provided tailored advice to government B/Ds and public bodies on 607 occasions, mainly in the formulation/review of legislations, policies or procedures to ensure that corruption prevention safeguards were built in at an early stage.
* Offered advisory service to private sector entities on 737 occasions upon request, and handled 804 public enquiries through CPAS hotline service.
* Conducted corruption prevention training for over 13 700 persons in both public and private sectors.
* Provided corruption prevention resources, including corruption prevention guides, best practice checklists, toolkits, sample codes of conduct, case studies, quick tips and training resources, for reference through the CPAS Web Portal and the Government’s Central Cyber Government Office website.

**Proactive and Early Corruption Prevention Input for New Policy Initiatives and Regulatory Regimes**

The Government has been launching an increasing number of new initiatives that involve public-private partnership, subsidies for citizens for specific purposes, and driving innovation and technology development, etc., in recent years. To ensure the necessary integrity management and corruption prevention measures are built in the systems from the outset, CPD has adopted a prevention at source strategy by providing early, interactive input to the Government and public bodies responsible for these initiatives and projects during the preparation stage. CPD also follows up with the detailed reviews of the actual implementation of the new initiatives to ensure robust and successful implementation. The following are examples of the aforesaid approach.

***Pro-innovation Government Procurement System***

To promote innovation and facilitate the participation of local start-ups and small and medium enterprises in government procurement, the Government launched the pro-innovation procurement policy on 1 April 2019. Under the new system, there are some key changes (including an upward adjustment of technical weighting in tender evaluation and “innovation” being an essential criterion for technical assessment) which might heighten the risk of manipulation in the procurement process. Prior to its implementation, CPD and the Financial Services and the Treasury Bureau (FSTB) had partnered to ensure that adequate corruption prevention safeguards would be built in the new system at the outset.

***District Health Centres***

To strengthen healthcare services in the community, the Government embarked on a programme to set up District Health Centres (DHCs) in all districts of the territory. CPD had been advising the Food and Health Bureau (FHB) on this initiative since its planning stage to ensure that control safeguards are early built into the system. Before the first DHC in the Kwai Tsing District commenced operation in September 2019, CPD provided advice on FHB’s DHC Scheme Service and Operation Guideline and the anti-bribery laws applicable to DHC staff, and conducted an integrity management briefing for them. CPD will continue to offer timely corruption prevention assistance for the Government to set up DHCs in other districts.

***Purchase of Private Properties for Welfare Facilities***

The Government set aside $20 billion for the purchase of private properties from 2020 onwards for providing various welfare facilities in different districts. CPD, at an interdepartmental meeting with representatives from the Social Welfare Department, the Government Property Agency, and the FSTB, advised on the corruption prevention principles governing the property purchase exercise, and subsequently advised the Labour and Welfare Bureau on the probity requirements for parties involved in the exercise and the Government Property Agency on the procedures for engaging solicitor firms for legal services for the property transactions.

***Insurance Authority***

The Insurance Authority (IA), established in 2015 as a scheduled public body, took over the self-regulatory regime for insurance intermediaries in 2019. CPD has all along been providing corruption prevention input to the FSTB regarding the establishment of IA, advising on the integrity management of IA’s staff and members, as well as providing corruption prevention advice to IA on its various public consultation papers on the new regulatory regime.

***Voluntary Health Insurance Scheme***

The Voluntary Health Insurance Scheme (VHIS) was launched in April 2019. CPD has been closely working with FHB and VHIS Office on the scheme implementation arrangement, draft procedural guidelines, etc., since the public consultation of VHIS.

***Administration of Funding Schemes***

The Government has established various funding schemes to meet specific objectives such as promoting innovation and technology and environmental protection, providing financial relief to elders and the needy. Over the years, CPD has examined a variety of funding schemes and recommended a host of corruption prevention measures on their administration and governance structure. Adopting a “facilitator” approach, CPD also proactively provides early input to government B/Ds on new funding schemes at their formulation stage, with a view to building adequate procedural safeguards from the outset, followed by detailed implementation review after the schemes have come into full operation. In 2019, CPD provided early input on the Tenant Accommodation Support Scheme and the Elite Incentive Scheme of the Hong Kong Science and Technology Parks Corporation, and conducted detailed reviews on the Cyberport Incubation Programme and the Cyberport Accelerator Support Programme of the Hong Kong Cyberport Management Company Limited, the Funding and Sponsorship Programme of the Pneumoconiosis Compensation Fund Board, the Patent Application Grant administered by the Innovation and Technology Commission with the Hong Kong Productivity Council as the implementation agent, and the Recycling Fund administered by the Environmental Protection Department.

**Addressing Issues of Public interest or important to People’s livelihood**

***Public Health and Hygiene***

In 2019, CPD conducted a series of studies on the operations of the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department, with a particular focus on its regulatory functions in respect of food safety and environmental hygiene. These included the Food Surveillance Programme under which food samples are regularly purchased in the market for testing of their conformity to established food safety standards, the management of government crematoria which provides cremation services and temporary storage of cremains for the public, as well as the licensing and control of factory canteens that provide meals to persons working in industrial buildings.

***Operation Building Bright 2.0, Fire Safety Improvement Works Subsidy Scheme, and Lift Modernisation Subsidy Scheme***

CPD continued to adopt a proactive and partnering approach to offer early corruption prevention advice/services to the Urban Renewal Authority and relevant government departments, as early as the inception of the three building rehabilitation subsidy schemes. With a total funding of about $16 billion, the schemes aim to assist the eligible building owners to carry out building repair works, fire safety improvement works, and lift modernisation works for their aged buildings. To strengthen the system integrity and enhance controls in the administration of these schemes, CPD advised on the related policy paper, internal guidelines for processing applications and prioritisation of cases, tender exercise for the appointment of term consultants, etc. In addition, CPD delivered close to 40 corruption prevention briefings reaching out to some 2 200 building owners and practitioners to heighten their corruption prevention awareness and assist them to build in safeguards in their maintenance projects.

***Sale of Subsidised Sale Flats***

The Hong Kong Housing Society is entrusted by the Government to undertake Subsidised Sale Flats Project to enable the low-to-middle-income families to attain home ownership at discounted prices. In view of the high demand for subsidised flats in Hong Kong, and to ensure that there are adequate safeguards against corruption and related malpractices, CPD conducted a review of procedures of the Hong Kong Housing Society for processing flat-purchase applications and engaging service providers to support flat-sale exercises (e.g. marketing and advertising services). Recommendations were made to strengthen procedural control and enhance the probity requirements for service providers.

***Inspection and Testing of Major Construction Materials in Government Works Projects***

To address public concern on the corruption risks in the quality control of construction materials for government works projects, CPD has completed a two-year programme on the review of materials quality control system of the Development Bureau (DEVB) and works departments. In 2019, CPD offered advice on the inspection, testing and acceptance of materials on-site, monitoring of approved steel reinforcing bar prefabrication yards, and management and operation of public works laboratories. CPD has also reviewed the Housing Department’s control system on testing and inspection of materials for public housing projects, and recommended corruption prevention measures on the Hong Kong Quality Assurance Agency’s quality scheme for production and supply of concrete and the Hong Kong Accreditation Service’s laboratory accreditation scheme.

***Approval and Inspection of Fire Services Installations in Airport and Railway Facilities***

The Fire Services Department approves building plans of proposed fire services installations (FSIs) and inspects completed FSIs in the expansion projects of Hong Kong International Airport and the railway network. CPD offered advice to the Fire Services Department to minimise corruption risks in the approval and inspection of FSIs of these projects, covering transparency in approval of FSIs, accountability in conducting inspections of completed FSIs, and integrity of acceptance tests.

***Corruption Prevention Awareness and Capabilities of Public Works Contractors***

In view of public concern over integrity in the implementation of public works projects, CPD, in collaboration with government B/Ds and public bodies concerned, embarked on an initiative to enhance the corruption prevention awareness and capabilities of public works contractors, covering integrity management, control systems in site supervision and management of subcontractors. As part of the initiative, CPD completed a review on DEVB’s system for managing the *List of Approved Contractors for Public Works*. To enhance their integrity, CPD advised the DEVB to require all approved contractors to put in place an effective integrity management system as part of the listing requirements. CPD also completed a review concerning subcontractor management to offer advice to the DEVB with a view to improving the system and enhancing controls. CPD will continue our efforts in this area, including collaborating with the relevant government B/Ds to assist public works contractors to implement the integrity management system and enhance site supervision.

***Procedures for Investigation of Money Laundering Cases at Regional and District Levels***

Given that money laundering has been a global concern in recent years, the Hong Kong Police Force, as a major anti-money laundering enforcement agency, has accorded a high operation priority to combat the crime. To ensure adequate controls exist to address inherent corruption risks in such an important enforcement function, CPD had reviewed the Police’s procedures for the investigation of money laundering cases, focusing on those at the regional and district levels. Noting a robust investigation mechanism has been in place and operating effectively, CPD provided corruption prevention advice for further refinement of the case processing procedure.

***Smuggling Investigation Procedures of the Special Investigation Group***

Set up in 2013, the Special Investigation Group of the Customs and Excise Department is tasked to combat the smuggling of general goods, in particular those by syndicates. In view of the corruption risks in the investigation of smuggling activities, CPD had reviewed the smuggling investigation procedures of the Special Investigation Group. Noting that the Customs and Excise Department has established a robust system in the Group’s investigation process, CPD provided corruption prevention advice to fine-tune the enforcement procedures for further enhanced monitoring.

***Insurance and Virtual Banking Initiative***

Over the years, CPD has strived to provide professional corruption prevention advisory service to the private sector and helped to maintain a level playing field for business in Hong Kong. For example, when the Hong Kong Monetary Authority introduced virtual banking for providing retail banking services primarily through the internet or other forms of electronic means, and invited applications for virtual banking licences, CPD provided concurrent corruption prevention input to the Hong Kong Monetary Authority regarding its procedures for processing the licence application in 2019, covering the probity requirements for applicants, integrity in shortlisting of applicants for detailed vetting, vetting of application documents and the approval of the authorisation. Regarding the insurance sector, CPD also, in collaboration with the insurance industry, will develop a corruption prevention guide for use by insurance companies to assist them in establishing and strengthening their corruption prevention capabilities in their core operations. In addition to providing early advice when the VHIS was firstly established in 2019, CPD continues to work closely with the VHIS Office to ensure that adequate safeguards are in place when the system is in full use.

***Strengthening Corruption Resistant Capabilities in the Education Sector***

CPD offers corruption prevention services to a wide spectrum of stakeholders in the education sector, including the Education Bureau, the Hong Kong Examinations and Assessment Authority, various universities, secondary and primary schools and kindergartens, with a view to strengthening their systems’ resistance to corruption. Following incidents alleging unauthorised disclosure of confidential information by examination personnel, CPD reviewed procedures and practices of the Hong Kong Examinations and Assessment Authority on the appointment and administration of part-time examination personnel, and made recommendations to enhance its mechanism for their appointment, integrity management and performance monitoring. CPD also advised the Education Bureau on the school administration and integrity management guidelines for schools, various schools in drawing up codes of conduct, and a number of universities in conducting procurement exercises, handling donations, and admitting students. Capacity building sessions were also organised for practitioners of various backgrounds in the education sector to enhance their corruption prevention awareness.

***Keeping Public Elections Clean***

As a continuous effort to keep public elections clean, CPD has been providing corruption prevention advice to the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau and the Registration and Electoral Office to further enhance the election systems and procedures. In preparation for the new public election cycle commencing in 2019, CPD helped review the draft amendments to the electoral law, as well as the updated guidelines for the 2019 District Council Election. In addition, to mitigate the “vote planting” risk in the coming Legislative Council Functional Constituency Elections, CPD has partnered with the Registration and Electoral Office to conduct a new round of visit programme to the Specified Bodies with a membership administration system, the members of which are eligible to vote at the elections. The programme entailed issuing an updated *Best Practice Checklist on Membership Administration* (with new measures to strengthen the control against membership applications with falsified information and documents) for reference by the Specified Bodies.

**enhancing governance and Corruption Prevention Capacity building**

***Service-wide Seminars and Best Practices on Pro-innovation Government Procurement for Government Bureaux/Departments***

To assist government B/Ds to effectively implement the new pro-innovation procurement policy, CPD delivered a briefing session on “Corruption Prevention in Government Procurement” in three service-wide seminars in March 2019 to enhance the corruption prevention awareness of government procuring staff. A total of about 730 senior and middle-ranked government officers were briefed on the corruption risks in the new system as well as the corresponding control measures. CPD had also, since April 2019, provided tailor-made advice to government B/Ds on a total of six occasions on their procurement matters, including revised procurement guidelines and tender documents. Moreover, CPD revised the *Corruption Prevention Guide on Government Procurement of General Goods and Services* accordingly to provide updated reference for government B/Ds.

***Resources through Corruption Prevention Advisory Service Web Portal***

CPD launched a dedicated web portal in January 2017 to facilitate dissemination of corruption prevention information (e.g. corruption prevention publications and training videos, case studies, red flags, corruption prevention tips) to the private sector. Since then, CPD has strived to continuously enriching the web portal content, and promoting the web portal to users in different business sectors via the networks of government B/Ds and professional/regulatory/trade bodies. Since its launch and up to the end of December 2019, the web portal has attracted about 244 000 visits and with corruption prevention resources downloaded or viewed for about 92 600 times. There are also an accumulated total of about 9 700 subscribers who regularly receive the corruption prevention news, tools and resources.

***Listed Companies – Anti-bribery Management Systems and Disclosure of Anti-corruption Information***

Throughout the year, CPD assisted listed companies in establishing and reviewing their anti-bribery management systems and enhancing the disclosure of anti-corruption information, so as to better comply with the Hong Kong Exchanges and Clearing Limited’s disclosure requirement implemented since 2016. Through collaboration with the regulator and professional bodies concerned, CPD organised training for over 700 members of professional bodies including the Hong Kong Institute of Certified Public Accountants, the Hong Kong Institute of Chartered Secretaries, and the Hong Kong Institute of Directors. CPD also published feature articles in their newsletters to promulgate the recommended practices in anti-corruption disclosure and introduce CPD’s advisory service.

***Tips on Doing Business Overseas – Anti-corruption Commitment across Territories***

To enhance business entities’ integrity and anti-corruption commitment when doing business overseas, CPD drew up tips which business entities may make reference to when seeking for business opportunities or expanding their business outside Hong Kong. The tips help businesses to stay out of corruption and establish good reputation. They are advised to formulate a policy on zero tolerance against corruption and strict compliance with the Prevention of Bribery Ordinance and anti-corruption laws of the jurisdictions where the business is carried out, and require all staff and agents (including those stationed or employed overseas) to comply with the policy. They should also prohibit staff and agents from bribing any persons, including foreign public officials, for securing business or their assistance, influencing their decisions, or in any way contrary to the Prevention of Bribery Ordinance or anti-corruption laws of the jurisdictions concerned. Where necessary, advice on overseas anti-corruption laws and proper trade practices should be sought from the relevant ministries of justice, anti-corruption agencies, legal consultants, chambers of commerce, trade associations, etc. Businesses should also engage legal professionals conversant with the overseas legislations, particularly those on anti-bribery, to vet their codes of conduct, tender and contract documents, joint venture agreements, etc.

**Chapter 6 Community Relations Department**

**Statutory Duties**

* Educate the public against the evils of corruption.
* Enlist public support in the fight against corruption.

**StrategIES**

* Adopt an “Ethics for All” approach to tailor preventive education programmes for different segments of the community.
* Enhance integration of media publicity and face-to-face education, with increased use of new media.
* Leverage strategic partnership with different sectors in mapping out and executing these programmes.

**Structure**

The Community Relations Department (CRD) is headed by a Director and operates through two divisions.



CRD has established seven Regional Offices (ROs) in the territory to conduct face-to-face education work for different segments of the community as well as serving as focal points for receiving corruption reports and handling enquiries about corruption. In 2019, about 15 per cent of the corruption complaints (election excluded) lodged with the Independent Commission Against Corruption (ICAC) were received by ROs. ROs also handled over 2 300 enquiries during the year. The detailed information of CRD’s structure and ROs are at Appendices 1 and 11 respectively. During the year, the Regional Office (Hong Kong East) was relocated to a new office in Wan Chai to continue to provide community and preventive education services for members of the public.

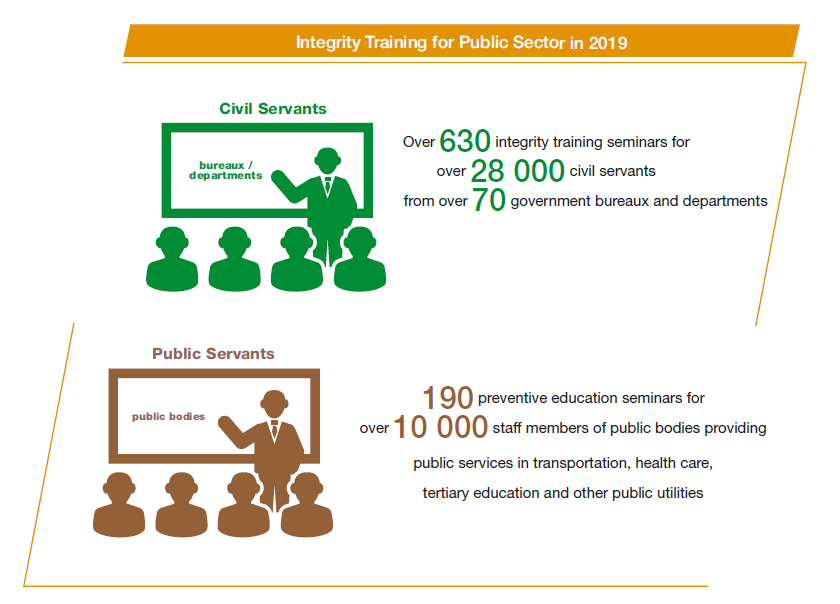
**Public Sector integrity**

To foster and entrench the probity culture in the public sector, CRD continued to provide integrity training for civil servants and staff of public bodies.

To enhance ethical leadership in the Government, CRD:

* organised briefings on anti-corruption law and integrity-related issues for Principal Officials and officials appointed under the Political Appointment System;
* conducted briefing sessions on ethical leadership in the Advanced Leadership Enhancement Programme and the Leadership In Action Programme organised by the Civil Service Training and Development Institute for directorate and senior government officers; and
* continued to partner with the Civil Service Bureau to assist Ethics Officers appointed by government bureaux and departments under the Ethical Leadership Programme to promote integrity culture across the civil service, including organising a workshop on supervisory accountability for Ethics Officers and four thematic seminars on the common law offence of misconduct in public office for frontline civil servants and junior managers.

CRD representatives also attended the Corruption Prevention Group meetings of government bureaux and departments to promote the adoption of a training cycle for their staff and the use of *Web Learning Portal on Integrity Management* in their integrity training.



**BusINESS Sector INTEGRITY**

The Hong Kong Business Ethics Development Centre (HKBEDC) was established under the auspices of CRD to promote business and professional ethics as a first line of defence against corruption.





HKBEDC launched a two-year “Integrity for Success” Ethics Promotion Campaign for the Insurance Industry in collaboration with the Insurance Authority and 12 industry bodies in April. A range of educational resources including training videos, online courses and a web portal were developed with a view to enhancing integrity amongst practitioners and entrenching a probity culture in the industry.

For the accounting sector, a series of feature articles highlighting the common ethical risks faced by different accounting professionals was produced and promoted to different accounting professional bodies.

Around 10 major incubators, accelerators and start-ups supporting organisations joined the “Starting-Up Right! Connectors Network” in August to support the promulgation of probity messages to start-ups. HKBEDC also maintained corruption prevention networks with about 80 banks and 80 trade associations to disseminate anti-corruption messages to banking practitioners and small and medium enterprises.

HKBEDC manages a dedicated website ([www.hkbedc.icac.hk](http://www.hkbedc.icac.hk)) with a repertoire of anti-corruption and ethics-related resources. Over 1.9 million visits have been recorded since its launch in 2001.

**Youth and Moral Education**

CRD continued to promote integrity messages to young people through various youth engagement programmes. For the tertiary level, ICAC Ambassadors enrolled from tertiary education institutions were entrusted with the mission to organise on-campus activities with their buddies, spreading integrity messages to their fellow students in 2018-19 academic year. Members of i-League, a network consisting former and serving ICAC Ambassadors, joined and assisted in a range of preventive education programmes to sustain their contribution to the anti-corruption cause.

The ICAC continued to organise the Voluntary Summer Helpers Programme which offered placements to tertiary students in various units of CRD. Apart from gaining first-hand experience in anti-corruption education and publicity work, the interns were given exposure to the work of the Operations Department, including investigation and operations, for the first time.

CRD also engaged senior secondary students joining the iTeen Leadership Programme to disseminate integrity messages to their peers. Given leadership and project management training, iTeen leaders assisted teachers in organising integrity promotion activities in schools for fellow students in the 2018-19 academic year. Outstanding iTeen leaders were invited to participate in CRD’s job shadowing activities. In addition, visits to the ICAC were arranged for about 3 600 students from over 50 secondary schools.



Moreover, interactive drama performances as well as talks on personal ethics and anti-corruption laws were arranged for over 63 000 secondary and tertiary students to hammer home integrity messages.



Riding on the Education Bureau’s new *Kindergarten Education Curriculum Guide*, a *Gee-Dor-Dor Teaching Resources Portfolio* was produced for kindergarten teachers as a moral education kit. To reinforce the impact, a parenting activity – *Gee-Dor-Dor and Good Kids Participation Scheme* – was launched and participated by over 200 kindergartens, reaching 37 000 kids.

CRD continued to publish the *ICAC Periodical* and maintain the Moral Education website (www.me.icac.hk) to render support for teachers of moral education.

**Community Publicity and public engagement**

Since the “All for Integrity” territory-wide programme was launched in 2016, CRD has continued to pass on and sustain the probity culture in the society of Hong Kong. To commemorate the 45th Anniversary of the ICAC in 2019, CRD organised an array of publicity events to share with the community the fruitful results of sustaining the integrity culture in the past 45 years.



CRD also strengthened its collaboration with various organisations to disseminate anti-corruption messages to the public. With the support from over 800 organisations, comprising 18 District Councils, district organisations, voluntary associations, government departments and business chambers, around 853 000 people were reached through a wide range of community engagement activities.

To further introduce the ICAC’s anti-corruption strategies and gauge public views and concern on the work of the ICAC, CRD officers attended meetings of various district consultative committees and maintained close contact with over 1 500 district organisations in the year.

CRD continued to partner with government departments and non-governmental organisations to disseminate anti-corruption messages to people of diverse race and new arrivals through various activities including visits to the ICAC, corruption prevention talks, distribution of publicity materials and publication of feature articles. Riding on the launch of a multi-language publicity package on corruption prevention in 2018, CRD actively promoted the use of the package and the related online teaching materials through district consultative committees, district organisations, non-governmental organisations and government departments. The package was also provided to trade organisations and companies in certain industries like construction, cleaning services and building management for training of frontline staff. To publicise the “Don’t Bribe” message to job-seekers, a related scenario with questions-and-answers was uploaded to the website of HKBEDC. Stories used in the package were also broadcast in five languages on radio programmes for people of diverse race.

**ICAC CLUB**

With a membership of over 3 000, the ICAC Club engaged members of the public from different strata of the community in the anti-corruption cause. During the year, training courses and gatherings continued to be organised to enhance members’ engagement and sense of belonging. Members were updated on the latest development of anti-corruption work through newsletters, a dedicated website as well as a newly launched Facebook group. In April, an Annual Award Presentation Ceremony was held to commend ICAC Club members for their voluntary service and dedication in assisting the ICAC to spread probity messages.

The Youth Chapter members under the ICAC Club continued to be actively engaged in planning and organising ICAC Club activities. Subsequent to joining an Anti-corruption Walk held in Central in late 2018 to get familiarised with Hong Kong’s anti-graft history and work, the Youth Chapter members were trained to organise three other Anti-corruption Walks for local youth, new arrivals and people of diverse race in 2020.

**Building Management**

To tie in with the Government’s Operations Building Bright 2.0 and Fire Safety Improvement Works Subsidy Scheme, CRD has stepped up efforts in educating flat owners on the anti-corruption laws and preventive measures through briefings in collaboration with the Urban Renewal Authority and the Home Affairs Department. In addition to the Clean Building Management Enquiry Hotline, CRD also launched a new dedicated website and produced publicity materials to assist applicants of various subsidy schemes to uphold integrity in building management.

During the year, the ICAC reached over 500 owners’ corporations or building management bodies through visits, talks and seminars, explaining laws and corruption preventive measures to over 3 000 people. Under an extensive marketing drive, about 14 000 counts of people were also reached through exhibitions, stall games, quizzes and distribution of promotional pamphlets, etc.

CRD also approached the Property Management Services Authority to map out anti-corruption education and publicity plans in the property management services industry under the proposed licensing regime for property management companies and practitioners.

**Clean Elections**

To uphold the integrity and fairness of public elections, CRD launched a four-year multi-faceted “Support Clean Elections” campaign for a new cycle of elections, starting with the rural elections and District Council Election held in 2019.

On the education front, CRD arranged briefings for candidates, election helpers, members of political parties and district organisations, post-secondary students and senior electors. A wide range of reference materials, including tailor-made information booklets for candidates and election agents, anti-vote-rigging pamphlets, as well as reminder leaflets for electors and candidates were distributed to alert stakeholders of the legislative requirements and the importance of upholding clean elections. CRD also set up dedicated websites to provide information on clean elections and operated a hotline to answer enquiries.

On the publicity front, a new series of educational filmlets was produced and widely broadcast at online and offline platforms to remind stakeholders to abide by the electoral law. CRD engaged multifarious means, such as broadcasting Announcement of Public Interest, publishing feature articles, displaying posters, and using mass media, infotainment channels and social media to promote clean election messages. To maximise the reach to the community, CRD also deployed YouTuber video production targeting at the young people, organised roving exhibitions and launched a poster campaign targeting at the local communities.

In 2019, CRD also arranged education and publicity activities for a total of four by-elections to fill vacant seats in District Council and Offices of Rural Representatives.

**Media Publicity**

CRD continued to use multi-media platforms to publicise anti-corruption messages and to enlist public support. Over the years, television drama based on real ICAC cases has been a signature production as well as an effective education tool to sustain public vigilance against the risk of corruption. The *ICAC Investigators 2019* drama series, co-produced with Television Broadcasts Ltd, was broadcast in April on both the terrestrial television and online platforms. On top of a viewership of over 7.2 million on multi-media platforms in seven days after broadcast, 2 million views were recorded online within 30 days of broadcast.

Under the theme “Times change. The mission continues.”, a full-fledged publicity campaign was rolled out by CRD in January to reiterate the ICAC’s perseverance in fighting corruption. The campaign comprised television and radio advertisements, as well as publicity on out-of-home media, social media and mobile platforms.

On the new media front, CRD continued its efforts to promote anti-corruption messages through websites and popular online platforms. A new online programme “iSir Academy” jointly hosted by the animated iSir and a Key Opinion Leader, was launched on the “All for Integrity” Facebook Fanpage to promote public understanding of anti-corruption law especially amongst the young generation through a fun approach. A web interview series featuring various creative talents was publicised on “All for Integrity” Facebook Fanpage and at the ICAC YouTube Channel to share with youngsters positive values.



**ICAC Annual Survey**

CRD continued to monitor the community’s attitude towards corruption and its perception of the ICAC through engaging an independent polling agency to conduct opinion surveys on an annual basis. In the 2019 face-to-face household survey, 1 506 persons were interviewed.

Public tolerance of corruption remained extremely low. Using a 0 to 10 rating scale, of which 0 represents total rejection and 10 total tolerance of corruption, the mean score was 0.3, the lowest tolerance level since this question was asked in 2010. Almost all respondents (98.7%) considered keeping a corruption-free society important to the overall development of Hong Kong and 96.3% of the respondents considered the ICAC deserving their support. The survey also showed that experience of corruption was uncommon in Hong Kong.

**Appendices**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 1 | Organisation of the Independent Commission Against Corruption |
| 2 | Membership Lists of Advisory Committees |
| 3 | Time Taken to Complete Investigation of Pursuable Cases Recorded in 2019 (Excluding Election-related Cases) |
| 4 | Time Taken to Complete Investigation of Pursuable Cases Recorded before 2019 (Excluding Election-related Cases) |
| 5 | Time Taken to Investigate Outstanding Cases in 2019 (Excluding Election-related Cases) |
| 6 | Number of Persons Prosecuted or Cautioned from 1974 to 2019 |
| 7 | Number of Persons Prosecuted for Corruption and Related Offences in 2019 (Classified by Government Bureaux/ Departments and Others) |
| 8 | Number of Persons Prosecuted for Corruption and Related Offences in 2019 (Classified by Types of Offences) |
| 9 | Number of Persons Prosecuted for Offences Connected with or Facilitated by Corruption in 2019 (Classified by Types of Offences) |
| 10 | Non-Corruption Referrals Made to Government Bureaux/ Departments and Public Bodies in 2019 |
| 11 | ICAC Regional Offices |



**Appendix 2 Membership Lists of Advisory Committees**

**(Position as at 31.12.2019)**

**Advisory Committee on Corruption**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| The Hon Martin LIAO Cheung-kong, GBS, JP | (Chairman) |
| Mr Evan AU YANG Chi-chun |  |
| The Hon CHAN Hak-kan, BBS, JP |  |
| Ms Irene CHOW Man-ling |  |
| The Hon Abraham SHEK Lai-him, GBS, JP |  |
| Mrs Carrie YAU TSANG Ka-lai, GBS, JP |  |
| Ms Eirene YEUNG |  |
| Chairman of the Operations Review Committee | (ex officio) |
| Chairman of the Corruption Prevention Advisory Committee | (ex officio) |
| Chairman of the Citizens Advisory Committee on Community Relations | (ex officio) |
| Director of Administration | (ex officio) |
| Commissioner, Independent Commission Against Corruption | (ex officio) |
| Head of Operations, Independent Commission Against Corruption | (ex officio) |

**OPERATIONS REVIEW COMMITTEE**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Mr Benjamin TANG Kwok-bun, GBS | (Chairman) |
| Ms Teresa AU Man-yee |  |
| Mr John CHAN Chong-kun |  |
| The Hon Ronick CHAN Chun-ying, JP |  |
| Dr Emily CHAN Po-shan |  |
| Mr CHEW Fook-aun |  |
| Mr Michael HO Mun-ka |  |
| Mr Hans Michael JEBSEN, BBS |  |
| Prof Paul LAM Kwan-sing, SBS, JP |  |
| Mr Paul LAM Ting-kwok, SC |  |
| Mr Nicholas Robert SALLNOW-SMITH |  |
| Dr Kelvin WONG Tin-yau, JP |  |
| Ms Nicole YUEN Shuk-kam |  |
| Secretary for Justice (or representative) | (ex officio) |
| Commissioner of Police (or representative) | (ex officio) |
| Director of Administration | (ex officio) |
| Commissioner, Independent Commission Against Corruption | (ex officio) |

**CORRUPTION PREVENTION ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Mr Adrian WONG Koon-man, BBS, MH, JP | (Chairman) |
| Ms Kuby CHAN Yin-hung |  |
| Prof Emily CHAN Ying-yang |  |
| Mr Sunny CHEUNG Yiu-tong |  |
| Mr Alex CHU Wing-yiu |  |
| Dr Stephen LAI Yuk-fai, JP |  |
| Mrs Yvonne LAW SHING Mo-han, BBS, JP |  |
| Ms Melissa Kaye PANG, MH, JP |  |
| Mr Winson WOO Lap-kee |  |
| Mr Alan YAU Hoi-ngan |  |
| Ms Yvonne YEUNG Kin-ha |  |
| Miss Theresa YEUNG Wing-shan |  |
| Commissioner of Police (or representative) | (ex officio) |
| Director of Administration (or representative) | (ex officio) |
| Commissioner, Independent Commission Against Corruption | (ex officio) |

**Citizens Advisory Committee on Community Relations**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Prof Timothy TONG Wai-cheung, BBS, JP | (Chairman) |
| Mr Mac CHAN Ho-ting |  |
| Ms Bonnie CHAN Shum-yue |  |
| Ms Catalina CHAN Yuen-ling | |  |
| Ms Quince CHONG Wai-yan, JP |  |
| Ms Julianne Pearl DOE |  |
| Prof Anthony FUNG Ying-him |  |
| Mr Eddy HUI Shun |  |
| Mr Chris IP Ngo-tung, JP |  |
| Prof LAU Chi-kuen, JP |  |
| Mr James MOK Hon-fai |  |
| Mr Webster NG Kam-wah |  |
| Mr Victor PANG Wing-seng |  |
| Mr Rocky TUNG Yat-ngok |  |
| Ms Gigi WONG Ching-chi |  |
| Mr WONG Wai-kit, MH |  |
| Commissioner, Independent Commission Against Corruption | (ex officio) |

***Co-opted Members***

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Mr David CHAN Tsz-pui |  |
| Ms Vivian IP |  |
| Ms Sonia LAM Pik-chu, MH |  |
| Ms Eleanor LI Po-yee |  |
| Mr SIU Yue-hei |  |
| Mr Anthony SO Chun-hin |  |
| Mr Keith WONG Tsz-wai |  |
| Mr James CHENG Lap-yan | (ex officio) |
| Dr Andy TAM Ka-keung | (ex officio) |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Appendix 3** | **Time Taken to Complete Investigation of Pursuable Cases Recorded in 2019 (Excluding Election-related Cases)** |

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Time taken to complete an investigation** | **No further action** | **Prosecution** | **Total** | **Percentage of total** |
| Less than 1 week | 2 | 0 | 2 | 0.3% |
| 1 - less than 2 weeks | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0.1% |
| 2 - less than 3 weeks | 4 | 0 | 4 | 0.6% |
| 3 - less than 4 weeks | 5 | 0 | 5 | 0.7% |
| ***Sub-total*** | ***11*** | ***1*** | ***12*** | ***1.7%*** |
| 1- less than 2 months | 44 | 1 | 45 | 6.4% |
| 2 - less than 3 months | 80 | 0 | 80 | 11.3% |
| 3 - less than 4 months | 146 | 0 | 146 | 20.7% |
| 4 - less than 5 months | 140 | 0 | 140 | 19.8% |
| 5 - less than 6 months | 124 | 1 | 125 | 17.7% |
| 6 months or more | 156 | 2 | 158 | 22.4% |
| **Total** | **701** | **5** | **706** | **100%** |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Appendix 4** | **Time Taken to Complete Investigation of Pursuable Cases Recorded before 2019 (Excluding Election-related Cases)** |

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Time taken to complete an investigation** | | **No further action** | **Prosecution** | **Total** | **Percentage of total** |
| Less than 1 month | | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0.1% |
| 1- less than 2 months | | 9 | 0 | 9 | 0.7% |
| 2 - less than 3 months | | 50 | 0 | 50 | 4.1% |
| 3 - less than 4 months | | 79 | 0 | 79 | 6.4% |
| 4 - less than 5 months | | 115 | 0 | 115 | 9.3% |
| 5 - less than 6 months | | 136 | 0 | 136 | 11.0% |
| 6 - less than 9 months | | 367 | 3 | 370 | 30.1% |
| 9 months - less than 1 year | | 221 | 6 | 227 | 18.4% |
| 1 - less than 2 years | | 132 | 40 | 172 | 14.0% |
| 2 years or more | | 40 | 32 | 72 | 5.8% |
| **合計 Total** | | **1 150** | **81** | **1 231** | **100%** |
|  |  | | | | |
| Notes : | Owing to rounding, there may be a slight discrepancy between the sum of percentage items and the total as shown in the tables. | | | | |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Appendix 5** | **Time Taken to Investigate Outstanding Cases in 2019 (Excluding Election-related Cases)** |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Time taken** | **Number of cases** | **Percentage of total** |
| Less than 1 month | 136 | 11.3% |
| 1- less than 2 months | 117 | 9.7% |
| 2 - less than 3 months | 122 | 10.1% |
| 3 - less than 4 months | 117 | 9.7% |
| 4 - less than 5 months | 147 | 12.2% |
| 5 - less than 6 months | 112 | 9.3% |
| 6 - less than 9 months | 152 | 12.6% |
| 9 months - less than 1 year | 97 | 8.1% |
| 1 - less than 2 years | 126 | 10.5% |
| 2 years or more | 76 | 6.3% |
| **Total** | **1 202** | **100%** |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Notes : | Owing to rounding, there may be a slight discrepancy between the sum of percentage items and the total as shown in the tables. |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Appendix 6** | **Number of Persons Prosecuted or Cautioned from 1974 to 2019** |

Yearly average for 1974-

85

Yearly average for 1986-96

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  |  | Persons Prosecuted |
|  |  |  |
|  |  | Persons Cautioned |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Appendix 7** | **Number of Persons Prosecuted for Corruption and Related Offences in 2019 (Classified by Government Bureaux/Departments and Others)** |

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | | | **Pending** | **Convicted** | **Acquitted** | **Total** |
| **Government Bureaux/Departments** | | |  |  |  |  |
| Correctional Services Department | | | 2 | 0 | 0 | **2** |
| Fire Services Department | | | 1 | 2 | 0 | **3** |
| Food and Environmental Hygiene Department | | | 0 | 1 | 0 | **1** |
| Hong Kong Police Force | | | 2 | 2 | 0 | **4** |
| Housing Department | | | 0 | 1 | 0 | **1** |
| Lands Department | | | 0 | 1 | 0 | **1** |
| Leisure & Cultural Services Department | | | 1 | 0 | 0 | **1** |
| **Others** | | |  |  |  |  |
| Private Sector | | | 76 | 39 | 10 | **125** |
| Public Bodies\* | | | 7 | 1 | 0 | **8** |
| Private Individuals (concerning Government Bureaux/Departments)\*\* | | | 3 | 3 | 0 | **6** |
| Private Individuals (concerning Public Bodies)\*\* | | | 5 | 0 | 0 | **5** |
| **Total** | | | **97** | **50** | **10** | **157** |
| Notes : | \* | As defined in the Prevention of Bribery Ordinance. | | | | |
|  | \*\* | Private individuals were prosecuted in investigations involving Government Bureaux/Departments or Public Bodies. | | | | |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Appendix 8** | **Number of Persons Prosecuted for Corruption and Related Offences in 2019 (Classified by Types of Offences)** |

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Types of Offences** | | | **Government Bureaux/**  **Departments** | **Private Individuals (concerning Government Bureaux/ Departments / Public Bodies)\*** | **Public Bodies\*\*** | **Private Sector** | **Total** | |
| **Soliciting/Accepting** | | | | | | | | |
| s.3 Cap 201 # | | | 4 | 0 | 0 | 0 | **4** | |
| s.4(2) Cap 201 | | | 2 | 1 | 2 | 0 | **5** | |
| s.9(1) Cap 201 | | | 0 | 0 | 0 | 14 | **14** | |
| **Offering** | | | | | | | | |
| s.4(1) Cap 201 | | | 0 | 1 | 2 | 0 | **3** | |
| s.9(2) Cap 201 | | | 0 | 0 | 0 | 10 | **10** | |
| **Agent using document to deceive principal** | | | | | | | | |
| s.9(3) Cap 201 | | | 1 | 0 | 0 | 2 | **3** | |
| **Offences connected with or facilitated by corruption** | | | | | | | | |
| s.10(2)(a) Cap 204 @ | | | 1 | 1 | 2 | 6 | **10** | |
| s.10(5) Cap 204 @ | | | 5 | 8 | 2 | 73 | **88** | |
| **Election offences** | | | 0 | 0 | 0 | 20 | **20** | |
| **Total** | | | **13** | **11** | **8** | **125** | **157** | |
| Notes : | \* | Private individuals were prosecuted in investigations involving Government Bureaux/Departments or Public Bodies. | | | | | |
|  | \*\* | As defined in the Prevention of Bribery Ordinance. | | | | | |
|  | # | Cap 201 is the Prevention of Bribery Ordinance. | | | | | |
|  | ## | Cap 204 is the ICAC Ordinance. | | | | | |
|  | @ | Detailed breakdown at Appendix 9. | | | | | |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Appendix 9** | **Number of Persons Prosecuted for Offences Connected with or Facilitated by Corruption in 2019 (Classified by Types of Offences)** |

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Types of Offences** | | | **Government Bureaux/**  **Departments** | **Private Individuals (concerning Government Bureaux/Departments or Public Bodies)\*** | **Public Bodies\*\*** | **Private Sector** | **Total** |
| **Theft Ordinance** | | | | | | | |
| Deception offences | | | 4 | 5 | 2 | 70 | **81** |
| Theft | | | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3 | **3** |
| Blackmail | | | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | **1** |
| **Crimes Ordinance** | | | | | | | |
| Forgery | | | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | **2** |
| Copying / Using a false instrument | | | 0 | 0 | 0 | 6 | **6** |
| **Perverting the Course of Public Justice** | | | 1 | 2 | 0 | 0 | **3** |
| **Misconduct in Public Office** | | | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | **2** |
| **Total** | | | **6** | **9** | **4** | **79** | **98** |
| Notes : | \* | Private individuals were prosecuted in investigations involving Government Bureaux/Departments or Public Bodies. | | | | | |
|  | \*\* | As defined in the Prevention of Bribery Ordinance. | | | | | |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Appendix 10** | **Non-Corruption Referrals Made to Government Bureaux/Departments and Public Bodies in 2019 Note 1** |

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Government Bureaux/Departments or Public Bodies** | | **No. of Referrals** | |
|
| **Government Bureaux/Departments** | |  | |
| Hong Kong Police Force | | 91 | |
| Immigration Department | | 14 | |
| Lands Department | | 11 | |
| Social Welfare Department | | 10 | |
| Inland Revenue Department | | 9 | |
| Customs and Excise Department | | 6 | |
| Housing Department | | 6 | |
| Fire Services Department | | 5 | |
| Food and Environmental Hygiene Department | | 5 | |
| Civil Service Bureau | | 4 | |
| Correctional Services Department | | 4 | |
| Home Affairs Department | | 4 | |
| Others Government Departments | | 30 | |
| ***Sub-total*** | | **199** | |
| **Public Bodies** | |  | |
| Securities and Futures Commission | | 9 | |
| Other Public Bodies | | 11 | |
| ***Sub-total*** | | **20** | |
| **Total** | | **219** | |
|  |  | |
| Note 1 | Government Bureaux/Departments and Public Bodies which received 4 or more referrals during the year are shown in the tables above. | |

**Appendix 11 ICAC Regional Offices**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Hong Kong Island** | **Districts** |
|  |  |
| **ICAC Regional Office**  **- Hong Kong West/Islands**  G/F, Harbour Commercial Building  124 Connaught Road Central  Sheung Wan   |  |  | | --- | --- | | Tel : | 2543 0000 (Enquiry & Report) | |  | 2899 3861 (Liaison) | | Fax : | 2189 7001 (Liaison) | | Central & Western District  Southern District  Islands |
| **ICAC Regional Office**  **- Hong Kong East**  Unit 3, G/F, East Town Building  16 Fenwick Street  Wan Chai   |  |  | | --- | --- | | Tel : | 2519 6555 (Enquiry & Report) | |  | 2899 3790 (Liaison) | | Fax : | 2117 0521 (Liaison) | | Wan Chai  Eastern District |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Kowloon** | **Districts** |
|  |  |
| **ICAC Regional Office**  **- Kowloon East/Sai Kung**  Shop No 9, G/F  Chevalier Commercial Centre  8 Wang Hoi Road  Kowloon Bay   |  |  | | --- | --- | | Tel : | 2756 3300 (Enquiry & Report) | |  | 2899 3760 (Liaison) | | Fax : | 2755 9036 (Liaison) | | Kwun Tong  Wong Tai Sin  Sai Kung |
| **ICAC Regional Office**  **- Kowloon West**  G/F, Nathan Commercial Building  434 - 436 Nathan Road  Yau Ma Tei   |  |  | | --- | --- | | Tel : | 2780 8080 (Enquiry & Report) | |  | 2899 3916 (Liaison) | | Fax : | 2770 3415 (Liaison) | | Kowloon City  Yau Tsim Mong  Sham Shui Po |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **New Territories** | **Districts** |
|  |  |
| **ICAC Regional Office**  **- New Territories South West**  Shop B1, G/F, Tsuen Kam Centre  300 - 350 Castle Peak Road  Tsuen Wan   |  |  | | --- | --- | | Tel : | 2493 7733 (Enquiry & Report) | |  | 2899 3843 (Liaison) | | Fax : | 2413 8490 (Liaison) | | Tsuen Wan  Kwai Tsing |
| **ICAC Regional Office**  **- New Territories North West**  G/F, Fu Hing Building  230 Castle Peak Road  Yuen Long   |  |  | | --- | --- | | Tel : | 2459 0459 (Enquiry & Report) | |  | 2899 3880 (Liaison) | | Fax : | 2450 7925 (Liaison) | | Yuen Long  Tuen Mun |
| **ICAC Regional Office**  **- New Territories East**  G06 - G13, G/F, Shatin Government Offices  1 Sheung Wo Che Road  Shatin   |  |  | | --- | --- | | Tel : | 2606 1144 (Enquiry & Report) | |  | 2899 3944 (Liaison) | | Fax : | 2601 7116 (Liaison) | | Sha Tin  Tai Po  North District |

**Reports of**

**ICAC Advisory Committees**

**2019**

**Advisory Committee on Corruption**

**ANNUAL REPORT 2019**

**TO THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

The Chief Executive the Honourable Mrs Carrie LAM CHENG Yuet-ngor,

**TERMS OF REFERENCE AND MEMBERSHIP**

The Advisory Committee on Corruption (ACOC) is the principal advisory body of the Independent Commission Against Corruption (ICAC) and oversees, among other things, its work programmes, staffing and administrative policies. The Chairmen of the Operations Review Committee, the Corruption Prevention Advisory Committee and the Citizens Advisory Committee on Community Relations are the ex-officio members serving the ACOC together with other appointed members. The terms of reference and membership of the ACOC in 2019 are at **Annexes A** and **B** respectively.

**WORK OF THE COMMITTEE**

The ACOC held three meetings in the year to review the corruption situation in Hong Kong and the work of the ICAC presented by the heads of the three ICAC departments.

***Effectively Upholding Probity Culture***

The ICAC reached the milestone of 45th Anniversary in 2019. The ACOC was pleased to see that the probity culture was firmly rooted in our society, the public sector remained clean and made continuous efforts to enhance governance and internal control, the private sector operated on a level playing field and was eager to seek corruption prevention advice from the ICAC. While the ICAC had been gaining wide recognition internationally, Hong Kong was ranked the 10th among 200 places in the *2019 TRACE Bribery Risk Matrix*, which was the 1st in Asia.

The three-pronged strategy has undoubtedly stood the test of time. The ACOC endorsed ICAC’s continual anti-corruption efforts through vigilant enforcement action and a multitude of education programmes and corruption prevention work. The three ICAC departments continued to work in sync for effectively fighting corruption relating to different sectors and areas, which included, inter alia, listed companies, insurance sector, building management and construction industries.

The ACOC noted that with persistent public support, government’s strong determination and ICAC’s relentless efforts in fighting corruption, Hong Kong remained a clean city with very low level of corruption in 2019. According to the *ICAC Annual Survey 2019*, 98.1% of respondents had not come across corruption personally in the past 12 months. A new election cycle has started in January and the District Council Election (DCE) held in November posed much challenges to the ICAC. Of 623 election related complaints received, 83% concerned the DCE. The ACOC appreciated that the ICAC has taken swift actions to handle complaints and suspected breaches against the Elections (Corrupt and Illegal Conduct) Ordinance and organised targeted education and promotion campaigns which helped much to ensure a fair and clean election.

***Enhancing International Anti-Corruption Network***

The ACOC endorsed ICAC’s efforts in enhancing its international anti-corruption network. In May, the 7th ICAC Symposium jointly organised by the ICAC and the World Justice Project provided a platform for over 500 participants from more than 50 jurisdictions to share ideas and experience in the fight against corruption. Immediately after the Symposium, an inaugural capacity building programme jointly organised by the ICAC and the International Association of Anti-Corruption Authorities was conducted for some 180 anti-corruption practitioners to enhance their enforcement, prevention and public education ability.

To fulfil its international obligation under the framework of the United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC), the ICAC continued to collaborate with the anti-corruption agencies of other UNCAC States Parties in developing and implementing corruption prevention measures. The ACOC noticed that the ICAC had engaged with over 50 Belt and Road countries which are also signatories of the UNCAC. In the year, the ICAC provided nine tailor-made capacity building programmes for eight Belt and Road countries who are also UNCAC States Parties.

Moreover, the ACOC supported the ICAC to enhance collaboration with the counterparts of Mainland China and Macao on the promotion of integrity culture. Following the release of the Outline Development Plan for the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area in February, a tripartite meeting of the heads of the Guangdong Provincial Commission of Supervision, the ICAC and the Commission Against Corruption of Macao was held in May. The three parties agreed to join hands to strengthen efforts in combating cross-boundary corruption, promoting integrity culture, organising capacity building programmes for graft-fighters, and holding regular meetings to review the progress of the collaboration.

***Corporate Governance***

The ACOC had exercised an effective monitoring role to advise the ICAC on its work. The ACOC received periodic reports on internal audits, and noticed and supported ICAC’s efforts in making continual improvements to its internal control and administrative systems with a view to strengthening its governance.

The ACOC considered and endorsed ICAC’s draft Estimates of Expenditure for 2020-21, and also scrutinised the *ICAC Annual Report 2019* before it was submitted to you.

**MEDIA BRIEFING**

On 14 January 2020, together with the Chairmen of the other three ICAC advisory committees, I conducted a briefing session with the media on our work in 2019. We answered questions from the press on matters concerning the corruption situation in Hong Kong and shared with the media our observations on the work of the ICAC with the emphasis on the robust system of checks and balances that has been in place to ensure that members of the ICAC conduct within the ambit of the law.

**APPRECIATION**

I wish to take this opportunity to thank members of the ACOC for their contributions and support. I, together with other members of the ACOC, would also like to place on record our gratitude to the ICAC officials for their reports and briefings and sincerity in answering members’ enquiries.

Martin LIAO Cheung Kong, GBS, JP

Chairman

Advisory Committee on Corruption

**Annex A Advisory Committee on Corruption**

**Terms of Reference (as at 31 December 2019)**

1. To advise the Commissioner of the Independent Commission Against Corruption on any aspect of the problem of corruption in Hong Kong, and, to this end :
   1. to keep the operational, staffing and administrative policies of the Commission under review;
   2. to advise on action being considered by the Commissioner under section 8(2) of the Independent Commission Against Corruption Ordinance;
   3. to receive reports by the Commissioner on disciplinary action taken;
   4. to consider the annual estimates of expenditure of the Commission;
   5. to scrutinise the annual report of the Commission before its submission to the Chief Executive; and
   6. to submit an annual report to the Chief Executive on the work of the Committee.
2. To draw to the Chief Executive’s attention, as it considers necessary, any aspect of the work of the Commission or any problem encountered by it.

**Annex B Advisory Committee on Corruption**

**Membership (as at 31 December 2019)**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| The Hon Martin LIAO Cheung Kong, GBS, JP | (Chairman) |
| The Hon Abraham SHEK Lai Him, GBS, JP |  |
| The Hon CHAN Hak Kan, BBS, JP |  |
| Mrs Carrie YAU TSANG Ka Lai, GBS, JP |  |
| Mr Evan AU YANG Chi Chun |  |
| Ms Eirene YEUNG |  |
| Ms Irene CHOW Man Ling |  |
| Chairman of the Operations Review Committee | (ex officio) |
| Chairman of the Corruption Prevention Advisory Committee | (ex officio) |
| Chairman of the Citizens Advisory Committee on Community Relations | (ex officio) |
| Director of Administration | (ex officio) |
| Commissioner, Independent Commission Against Corruption | (ex officio) |
| Head of Operations, Independent Commission Against Corruption | (ex officio) |

**Operations Review Committee**

**ANNUAL REPORT 2019**

**TO THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

The Chief Executive the Honourable Mrs Carrie LAM CHENG Yuet-ngor,

**TERMS OF REFERENCE AND MEMBERSHIP**

The Operations Review Committee (ORC), comprising 13 non-official members, oversees the work of the Operations Department. Its terms of reference and membership are at **Annexes A** and **B** respectively. At the end of 2019, Mr Nicholas Robert SALLNOW-SMITH retired from the Committee after six years of service, whilst a new member, Dr Aron Hari HARILELA joined the Committee in 2020.

**WORK OF THE COMMITTEE**

The Committee met on eight occasions during 2019 to review reports prepared by the Operations Department. At each meeting, the Committee received reports on current major investigations and their updates, cases that had been investigated by the ICAC for over 12 months, reports on persons who had been on ICAC bail for over six months, as well as cases prosecuted at court. The Committee noted that no search warrants had been issued by the Commissioner under section 17 of the Prevention of Bribery Ordinance. During the year, the Committee also received reports on 43 completed major investigations which resulted in no prosecution and/or contained issues of residual concern.

A Subcommittee comprising three non-official members sitting in rotation was convened on eight separate occasions to consider and advise on 1 716 completed minor investigations and 561 non-pursuable complaints of corruption. Findings of the Subcommittee were reported to the Main Committee for endorsement.

The Head of Operations attended the Committee meetings to brief members on the work of the Operations Department, corruption statistics and trends and other issues of interest. We also received two information papers, namely the *Annual Report on Corruption and Malpractice in the Government 2018* and the *Report on Investigations of Election Complaints (2015-2017)*, which respectively identified areas susceptible to corruption and malpractices in the Government and issues of concern relating to the six ordinary public elections held between 2015 and 2017.

**GENERAL CORRUPTION SCENE**

Excluding election-related complaints, a total of 2 297 corruption complaints were received in 2019, representing a decrease of 14 per cent when compared to 2 665 complaints received in 2018. The number of pursuable complaints also decreased by 14 per cent from 2 015 to 1 738. The drop is across the board with the decrease in complaints concerning the private sector more significant. In particular, a decrease of 169 complaints in the Building Management subsector accounted for around 57 per cent of the drop in the private sector. However, there was no change in the overall corruption pattern[[2]](#footnote-2), with 64 per cent of those complaints concerned the private sector, 28 per cent related to government sector and seven per cent involved public bodies, a pattern that has been maintained for years.

For non-election related offences, a total of 105 persons in 73 cases were convicted with the person-based and case-based conviction rates at 75 per cent and 79 per cent respectively. While technological advancement and globalisation have brought challenges to the investigative work of the ICAC, the Committee appreciates that the Operations Department and its officers have taken on the challenges and are committed to intensifying their training and enhancing their capabilities, particularly in the areas of computer forensics and financial investigation, to combat the increasingly sophisticated and insidious menace of corruption and related crimes.

The Committee notes that public support remains strong with 72 per cent of complainants identifying themselves to provide more details when reporting corruption.

**CORRUPTION IN THE GOVERNMENT SECTOR**

In 2019, complaints concerning staff of government bureaux/departments decreased by eight per cent from 706 to 647 with the number of pursuable complaints decreased by eight per cent from 435 to 400 when compared to 2018.

The Committee is pleased to note that the civil service in Hong Kong remains clean, and the vast majority of civil servants are able to measure up to the very high standards of integrity and probity expected of them. The Committee is confident that the Operations Department will continue to pursue each and every complaint vigilantly, and in strict accordance with the law and established procedures.

The Committee also supports the ICAC’s continuous collaboration with the Civil Service Bureau and relevant government bureaux/departments to uphold the integrity of the civil service and to heighten government servants’ awareness of possible corruption and conflict of interest situations. In 2019, excluding election-related complaints, a total of 151 complaints were referred to the ICAC for action by various government bureaux/departments. Of these 151 complaints, 57 were referred by the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department, 12 by the Hong Kong Police Force, 11 by the Leisure and Cultural Services Department, 7 by the Education Bureau, and the remainder by other government bureaux/departments.

**REFERRAL OF CASES FOR CONSIDERATION OF DISCIPLINARY / ADMINISTRATIVE ACTION BY HEADS OF DEPARTMENTS**

In 2019, on the recommendation of the Committee, 57 cases involving 91 government servants were referred to the relevant government bureaux/departments for consideration of disciplinary and/or administrative action, compared to 57 cases involving 87 government servants in 2018. Such referrals mainly concerned civil servants abusing their authority, obtaining unauthorised loans, taking up outside employment, neglecting their duty, having undesirable associations, and engaging in malpractice over attendance/overtime.

**CORRUPTION CONCERNING PUBLIC BODIES**

In 2019, corruption complaints relating to public bodies dropped by seven per cent (from 183 to 170) whilst pursuable complaints by two per cent (from 126 to 124) when compared to 2018. The Hospital Authority (42), the MTR Corporation Limited (18), District Council (18) and the Hong Kong Jockey Club (13) together accounted for 54 per cent of the total complaints in this sector.

**CORRUPTION IN THE PRIVATE SECTOR**

In 2019, complaints concerning the private sector dropped by 17 per cent from 1 776 to 1 480. Pursuable complaints also fell by 17 per cent from 1 454 to 1 214. The areas that attracted the most complaints were Building Management (from 674 to 505), Finance and Insurance (from 151 to 163), and Construction Industry (from 169 to 140).

As mentioned, there was a significant decrease in the number of complaints concerning the Building Management subsector, which can be seen as a welcome sign. Although the Building Management subsector still topped the list amongst other subsectors, the downward trend recorded in 2018 continued into 2019 and the proportion of complaints it took up in the private sector dropped from 38 per cent in 2018 to 34 per cent in 2019. The Committee supports the Operations Department to continue adopt a two-pronged strategy, combining the traditional approach of investigation for prosecution with preventive measures by taking timely intervention action in appropriate cases.

The Committee observes that complaints in relation to the Finance and Insurance subsector recorded a mild increase from 151 to 163 (up by 8%), when compared with 2018. To uphold public confidence in Hong Kong’s financial system, the ICAC has been committed to combating corruption and related offences in the banking, finance and insurance industries, and maintaining close collaboration with the respective industries as well as financial regulators. In 2019, a Memorandum of Understanding was signed between the ICAC and the Securities and Futures Commission to strengthen cooperation in the fight against corruption and market malpractice. The Committee is pleased to note that the enhanced liaison work and cooperation between the two agencies has brought about tangible results in joint investigations.

**ELECTIONS**

Year 2019 marked the beginning of a new cycle of public elections, starting with the Rural Representative Election in January and followed by the District Council Election in November. The District Council Election in particular was held against a backdrop of social unrest that was unprecedented in Hong Kong. Up to the end of 2019, the ICAC received 518 election-related complaints in respect of the District Council Election, of which 492 were pursuable. Among those complaints, 153 related to the publishing of false or misleading statements about candidates, 113 concerned the use of force or duress against candidates, and 97 related to bribing of electors and others.

The year also saw 23 persons prosecuted for various electoral offences and 55 persons warned for more minor breaches. Among those prosecuted, 17 persons were involved in a case concerning a bribery and vote-rigging scam in relation to a functional constituency during the 2016 Legislative Council Election.

The Committee fully supports the ICAC in taking robust enforcement action against electoral bribery or malpractice in order to uphold clean and fair public elections in Hong Kong.

**CONCLUSION**

Year 2019 marked the 45th Anniversary of the ICAC. While the fight against corruption is never an easy task, the unprecedented social unrest taking place in Hong Kong in the latter half of 2019 had posed great challenges to the work of the ICAC. Amidst all challenges it faced in 2019, the Committee is pleased to observe that the ICAC remains steadfastly committed to combating corruption without fear or favour. The Committee is also satisfied that the Operations Department has impartially and independently performed its duties with perseverance and professionalism. As one of the pillars of the check and balance mechanism, the Committee will continue to look at all ICAC investigations in order to ensure that the principles of lawfulness, fairness and impartiality are always upheld.

**APPRECIATION**

Lastly, I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to all Committee members for their dedication and contributions during the period in reviewing each and every case brought before them diligently, objectively and impartially. The Committee also appreciates the hard work of the Operations Department and its pledge to uphold Hong Kong’s probity and the rule of law with conviction and determination.

Benjamin TANG Kwok-bun, GBS

Chairman

Operations Review Committee

**Annex A Operations Review Committee**

**Terms of Reference (as at 31 December 2019)**

1. To receive from the Commissioner of the Independent Commission Against Corruption information about all complaints of corruption made to the Commission and the manner in which the Commission is dealing with them.
2. To receive from the Commissioner progress reports on all investigations lasting over a year or requiring substantial resources.
3. To receive from the Commissioner reports on the number of, and justifications for, search warrants authorised by the Commissioner, and explanations as to the need for urgency, as soon afterwards as practicable.
4. To receive from the Commissioner reports on all cases where suspects have been bailed by the Commission for more than six months.
5. To receive from the Commissioner reports on the investigations the Commission has completed and to advise on how those cases that on legal advice are not being subject to prosecution or caution, should be pursued.
6. To receive from the Commissioner reports on the results of prosecutions of offences within the Commission’s jurisdiction and of any subsequent appeals.
7. To advise the Commissioner on what information revealed by investigations into offences within its jurisdiction shall be passed to government departments or public bodies, or other organisations and individuals, or, where in exceptional cases, it has been necessary to pass such information in advance of a Committee meeting, to review such action at the first meeting thereafter.
8. To advise on such other matters as the Commissioner may refer to the Committee or on which the Committee may wish to advise.
9. To draw to the Chief Executive’s attention any aspect of the work of the Operations Department or any problems encountered by the Committee.
10. To submit annual reports to the Chief Executive which should be published.

**Annex B Operations Review Committee**

**Membership (as at 31 December 2019)**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Mr Benjamin TANG Kwok-bun, GBS | (Chairman) |
| Ms Teresa AU Man-yee |  |
| Mr John CHAN Chong-kun |  |
| The Hon Ronick CHAN Chun-ying, JP |  |
| Dr Emily CHAN Po-shan |  |
| Mr CHEW Fook-aun |  |
| Mr Michael HO Mun-ka |  |
| Mr Hans Michael JEBSEN, BBS |  |
| Prof Paul LAM Kwan-sing, SBS, JP |  |
| Mr Paul LAM Ting-kwok, SC |  |
| Mr Nicholas Robert SALLNOW-SMITH |  |
| Dr Kelvin WONG Tin-yau, JP |  |
| Ms Nicole YUEN Shuk-kam |  |
| Secretary for Justice (or representative) | (ex officio) |
| Commissioner of Police (or representative) | (ex officio) |
| Director of Administration | (ex officio) |
| Commissioner, Independent Commission Against Corruption | (ex officio) |

**Corruption Prevention Advisory Committee**

**ANNUAL REPORT 2019**

**TO THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

The Chief Executive the Honourable Mrs Carrie LAM CHENG Yuet-ngor,

**TERMS OF REFERENCE AND MEMBERSHIP**

The Corruption Prevention Advisory Committee (CPAC), comprising 12 non-official members, advises the Commissioner of ICAC on the work of the Corruption Prevention Department (CPD). Its terms of reference and membership are at **Annexes A and B** respectively. This year, Mr Winson WOO Lap-kee has succeeded Dr LI Pang-kwong as a Member of the Committee. Through seven subcommittees, each comprising two non-official members, the Committee advises on the focus and priority of the work of the seven Assignment Groups of CPD.

**WORK OF THE COMMITTEE**

In 2019, the CPAC met on six occasions and considered 70 assignment reports presented by CPD, involving mostly the work of government bureaux/departments (B/Ds) and public bodies. These reports, covering a wide range of operational systems and functions, were scrutinised by the CPAC to ensure that the recommendations proposed by CPD to mitigate the corruption risks identified were practical and effective. A list of all the reports endorsed by the CPAC is at **Annex C**. Following the issue of reports, CPD followed up closely with the government B/Ds and organisations concerned on their implementation of the recommendations.

The CPAC noted that apart from the assignment studies, CPD provided timely advice to government B/Ds and public bodies on 533 occasions, mainly in their formulation/review of legislations, policies, systems and procedures for the implementation of new initiatives, public services and projects. Regarding private organisations, tailor-made corruption prevention advice was offered on 640 occasions, with all requests for services duly responded to within two working days. In addition, the Corruption Prevention Advisory Service handled 804 public enquiries through its hotline service. CPD also conducted a total of 171 corruption prevention seminars for government B/Ds, public bodies and private organisations (including non-governmental organisations and consultants/contractors of public works), reaching an audience totalling over 13 700 persons.

**HIGHLIGHT OF WORK**

During the year, CPD continued to assist government B/Ds and public bodies in plugging corruption loopholes in their systems or procedures. With an increasing emphasis on the strategy of prevention at source and the adoption of a partnership approach, CPD has further stepped up its service of providing early, interactive input to the Government and public bodies on new or enhanced initiatives and public services, with a focus on areas of public concern, involving people’s livelihood and public safety, as well as those involving substantial public moneys, which covered such areas as public works projects, public procurement, public health, funding schemes, law enforcement and regulatory functions. The CPAC supports CPD’s concurrent prevention strategy which can help ensure the incorporation of the necessary integrity management and corruption prevention measures before the new initiatives, public services and projects are implemented. CPD has also continued to help maintain a level-playing field and corruption-free environment for business to facilitate healthy and sustainable economic development by providing corruption prevention advisory services to the private sector, particularly through an increasing use of electronic platforms and closer collaboration with relevant professional bodies in recent years. The highlight of CPD’s work is set out below.

***Early Input to Government’s New Initiatives with Timely Follow-up Reviews***

In recent years, the Government has launched an increasing number of new initiatives and programmes which have a great impact on people’s livelihood and well-being, for example, the Lift Modernisation Subsidy Scheme, the Voluntary Health Insurance Scheme and the District Health Centres. The Government’s pro-innovation procurement model, effective since 1 April 2019 has also introduced an unconventional approach for government procurement. For all these different initiatives and projects, CPD has provided early input to the Government and public bodies concerned during their design/preparation stage to facilitate their effective implementation with system integrity, and where necessary, also followed up with detailed reviews of their actual implementation to ensure that any further loopholes subsequently unfolded could be duly plugged. The CPAC is pleased to note this comprehensive approach with early input to facilitate a robust and successful implementation.

***Corruption Prevention Work for Target Sectors***

To address public concern on the corruption risks in the quality control of construction materials for government works projects, CPD has undertaken a series of studies to review the work processes in a bid to strengthen corruption prevention measures in the quality control of major construction materials in public works projects. In addition, training was also provided to practitioners to enhance their integrity and corruption prevention awareness. The CPAC considers this very important in light of new delivery models and increasing scale and complexity in such projects, which have raised concerns whether the established, conventional controls are capable of countering the new risks.

Apart from the Construction Industry, the Financial sector is another important economic pillar of Hong Kong. Integrity in the operations and dealings in the Financial sector is of great importance. CPD has, in collaboration with the regulator and professional bodies concerned (including the Hong Kong Exchanges and Clearing Limited and members of professional bodies), provided corruption prevention resources, training, and advice through feature articles, to assist listed companies in establishing and strengthening their anti-bribery management systems.

The CPAC is much pleased at CPD’s contribution towards these two key industries’ continuous healthy development.

**LOOKING AHEAD**

The CPAC notes that CPD will continue its efforts to further consolidate and enhance the corruption resistance in both the public and private sectors.

As part of the initiative to enhance the governance of public works projects, CPD has kick started reviews of the systems for supervision of works projects and integrity management of public works contractors. Given the scale of the industry, number of stakeholders and the complexity of processes involved, CPD will adopt a progressive approach with assistance first given to the Development Bureau and major public bodies to strengthen corruption resistance of their supervision systems. CPD will continue to assist the industry, in particular public works contractors, to raise their awareness of corruption risks and integrity management.

With the establishment of the Insurance Authority to regulate the Insurance Industry and the growing popularity of various types of insurance schemes (e.g. the Voluntary Health Insurance Scheme), CPD will, in collaboration with the Insurance Industry, develop a corruption prevention guide for insurance companies to assist them in establishing and strengthening their corruption prevention capabilities in their core operations.

While Construction and Finance are two important industries, there are many other trades and industries in the business sector (such as retail, catering and tourism) which are equally important to Hong Kong’s economic success and citizens’ daily life. Over the years, CPD has provided various preventive services for different industries as well as the business sector in general. CPD will leverage on its Corruption Prevention Advisory Service Web Portal to help the business sector prevent corruption by disseminating more trade/industry-specific corruption prevention advice, case studies and best practices guides.

**CONCLUSION**

CPD continues to play a crucial role in enhancing the governance and internal controls of both public and private organisations in Hong Kong, which, in addition to preventing corruption, are in fact important in facilitating the successful implementation of their public and business objectives. The CPAC affirms the work done by CPD in the past year, in particular its proactive, cross-sector and early corruption prevention input strategies.

**APPRECIATION**

I would like to take this opportunity to express my appreciation for the contribution and support of all CPAC members who have provided much insight for CPD’s work from an independent angle and with the benefit of expertise in their respective professions. I would also like to thank CPD staff for their hard work, professionalism and dedication.

Adrian WONG Koon-man, BBS, MH, JP

Chairman

Corruption Prevention Advisory Committee

**Annex A Corruption Prevention Advisory Committee**

**Terms of Reference (as at 31 December 2019)**

1. To receive and call for reports from the Commission about practices and procedures of government departments, public bodies and the private sector which may be conducive to corruption, and advise the Commissioner what areas should be examined and the degree of priority to be accorded to each.
2. To consider recommendations arising from such examinations and advise the Commissioner on further action to be taken.
3. To monitor action taken to implement recommendations made on the advice of the Corruption Prevention Advisory Committee.

**Annex B Corruption Prevention Advisory Committee**

**Membership (as at 31 December 2019)**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Mr Adrian WONG Koon-man, BBS, MH, JP | (Chairman) |
| Ms Kuby CHAN Yin-hung |  |
| Prof Emily CHAN Ying-yang |  |
| Mr Sunny CHEUNG Yiu-tong |  |
| Mr Alex CHU Wing-yiu |  |
| Dr Stephen LAI Yuk-fai, JP |  |
| Mrs Yvonne LAW SHING Mo-han, BBS, JP |  |
| Ms Melissa Kaye PANG, MH, JP |  |
| Mr Winson WOO Lap-kee |  |
| Mr Alan YAU Hoi-ngan |  |
| Ms Yvonne YEUNG Kin-ha |  |
| Miss Theresa YEUNG Wing-shan |  |
| Commissioner of Police or representative | (ex officio) |
| Director of Administration or representative | (ex officio) |
| Commissioner, Independent Commission Against Corruption | (ex officio) |

**Annex C Assignment Reports Completed by**

**Corruption Prevention Department in 2019**

| *Client* | *Subject Area* |
| --- | --- |
| **I. Government Bureaux/Departments** | |
| Development Bureau | Administration of the List of Approved Contractors for Public Works |
|  | Implementation of Subcontractor Management Plan for Public Works |
|  | Site Quality Control of Major Construction Materials for Infrastructure Projects |
| Financial Services and the Treasury Bureau | Corruption Prevention Work on Pro-innovation Government Procurement |
| Food and Health Bureau | Setting up of the Voluntary Health Insurance Scheme |
| Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department | Control of Dog Breeding and Pet Trading |
| Outsourcing of Services and Procurement for Hong Kong Wetland Park |
| Civil Aviation Department | Work of Dangerous Goods Office |
| Civil Engineering and Development Department | Management and Operation of Public Works Laboratories |
|  | Monitoring on Provision of Prefabricated Steel Reinforcing Bars to Government Projects by Approved Yards |
| Correctional Services Department | Management of General and Industrial Stores |
| Customs and Excise Department | Smuggling Investigation Procedures of the Special Investigation Group |
| Department of Health | Enforcement of Specific Land Grant Conditions and Service Deed for Private Hospitals |
|  | Licensing and Inspection of Wholesalers and Retailers of Chinese Herbal Medicines |
| Drainage Services Department | Letting and Administration of In-house Managed Electrical and Mechanical Capital Works Contracts Adopting New Engineering Contract |
|  | Letting and Administration of Term Contracts for Greening Works |
| Electrical and Mechanical Services Department | Control of Repair and Maintenance Services for LPG Vehicles |
| Environmental Protection Department | Administration of the Recycling Fund |
|  | Handling of Pollution Complaints by Regional Offices |
| Fire Services Department | Approval and Inspection of Fire Safety Plans for Railway and Airport Works |
| Food and Environmental Hygiene Department | Licensing and Control of Factory Canteens |
|  | Management of Food Surveillance Programme at Wholesale and Retail Levels |
|  | Management of Public Cremation Services |
| Highways Department | Letting and Administration of Management and Maintenance Contracts for Regional Roads Adopting General Conditions of Contract |
| Hong Kong Monetary Authority | Authorisation of Authorized Institutions |
|  | Supervision of Authorized Institutions |
| Hong Kong Police Force | Investigation of Money Laundering Cases at Regional and District Levels |
| Hongkong Post | Administration of Overtime |
| Housing Department | Letting and Administration of Civil and Geotechnical Engineering Contracts |
|  | Letting and Administration of Property Services Contracts for Courts under Home Ownership Scheme |
|  | Supervision of Materials Testing and Factory Inspections |
| Innovation and Technology Commission | Administration of Technology Voucher Programme |
| Intellectual Property Department | Administration of the “No Fakes Pledge” Scheme |
| Judiciary | Letting and Administration of Digital Audio Recording and Transcription Services Contracts |
| Legal Aid Department | Assignment of Criminal Legal Aid Cases to Legal Practitioners and Experts |
| Leisure and Cultural Services Department | Letting and Administration of Management and Supporting Services Contracts for Outsourced Sports Centres |
|  | Organisation and Management of Cultural and Film Programmes |
| Marine Department | Letting and Administration of Vessel Maintenance Service Contracts |
| Office of the Government Chief Information Officer | Letting and Administration of Standing Offer Agreement for Quality Professional Services |
| Social Welfare Department | Administration of the Partnership Fund for the Disadvantaged |
| Transport Department | Designation and Monitoring of Pre-service Training Schools and Driving Improvement Schools |
|  | Issue of Lantau Closed Road Permits |
| Water Supplies Department | Licensing of Plumbers and Administration of Voluntary Continuing Professional Development Scheme |
| **II. Scheduled Public Bodies** | |
| Construction Industry Council | Stock Control Procedures |
| Consumer Council | Administration of Consumer Legal Action Fund |
| Financial Reporting Council | Procurement of Goods and Services |
| Hong Kong and China Gas Company Limited | Letting and Administration of Commercial and Industrial Contracts for Maintenance of Gas Appliances |
| Hong Kong Arts Development Council | Administration of Matching Fund Scheme |
| Hong Kong Cyberport Management Company Limited | Administration of Financial Assistance Programmes for Start-ups |
| Hong Kong Housing Society | Letting and Administration of Maintenance Contracts |
|  | Sale of Flats under Subsidised Sale Flats Projects |
| Hong Kong Note Printing Limited | Procurement of General Goods and Services |
| Hong Kong Productivity Council | Administration of Patent Application Grant |
| Hong Kong Tourism Board | Administration of Mega Events |
| Hospital Authority | Management of Minor Works Lump Sum Contracts |
| Lingnan University | Procurement of General Goods and Services |
| MTR Corporation Limited | Leasing of Advertising Spaces |
| Ocean Park Corporation | Letting and Administration of Maintenance Service Contracts |
| Securities and Futures Commission | Work of the Enforcement Division |
| The Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts | Acquisition and Management of Library Materials |
| The Hong Kong Examinations and Assessment Authority | Appointment and Administration of Part-time Examination Personnel |
| The Hong Kong Polytechnic University | Letting and Administration of Maintenance and Minor Works Contracts |
| The Kowloon Motor Bus Company (1933) Limited | Procurement of Bus-related Items |
| The University of Hong Kong | Handling of Donations |
|  | Management of Minor Maintenance Works |
| Urban Renewal Authority | Corruption Prevention Services on Operation Building Bright 2.0 and Fire Safety Improvement Works Subsidy Scheme |
|  | Freezing Survey in Urban Renewal Projects |
| **III. Other Organisations** | |
| Construction Sector | Measures to Tackle “Introduction Fee” Malpractice in Recruitment of Workers in Construction Industry |
| Employees Retraining Board | Outsourcing of the Operation of Service Centres and Service Spots |
| Pneumoconiosis Compensation Fund Board | Administration of Funding and Sponsorship Programme |

**Citizens Advisory Committee on Community Relations**

**ANNUAL REPORT 2019**

**TO THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

The Chief Executive the Honourable Mrs Carrie LAM CHENG Yuet-ngor,

**TERMS OF REFERENCE AND MEMBERSHIP**

The Citizens Advisory Committee on Community Relations (CACCR) advises the Commissioner of the ICAC on the work of the Community Relations Department (CRD). The Committee has 16 members drawn from a wide cross-section of the community. Its terms of reference and membership are at **Annexes A** and **B** respectively. The CACCR has two subcommittees, namely the Media Publicity and Community Research Subcommittee and the Preventive Education and Public Engagement Subcommittee, which scrutinise and give advice on specific aspects of CRD’s work and report to the CACCR.

**WORK OF THE COMMITTEE**

During the year, the CACCR met three times to discuss and advise on measures to consolidate a probity culture in the community through face-to-face contacts with different strategic sectors and effective use of the mass and new media. The two Subcommittees, which held a total of six meetings in 2019, advised on specific areas of CRD’s work and reported their deliberations to the CACCR for endorsement.

The Committee wholly endorsed CRD’s strategy to pursue its “Ethics for All” promotional approach, with intensified use of multi-media publicity, in strengthening preventive education for all sectors of the community. With continuous efforts throughout the years, the core value of integrity and a probity culture was deeply entrenched in Hong Kong. As reflected in the *2019 ICAC Annual Survey*, the public remained highly intolerant of corruption. An overwhelming majority of respondents expressed support for the ICAC and considered that keeping Hong Kong corruption-free was essential to the overall development of Hong Kong.

In reviewing the Committee’s work in 2019, I would like to highlight a number of preventive education and publicity initiatives of the CRD that are worth attention.

***Community Education and Multi-Media Publicity***

The Committee was in full support of CRD’s community engagement strategy to enlist public support for the anti-corruption cause. To commemorate the 45th Anniversary of the ICAC in 2019, CRD organised territory-wide activities to share with the community fruitful results of sustaining the integrity culture in the past 45 years. Virtual Reality and Augmented Reality game booths and exhibitions with digital features had been staged in district projects organised with 18 District Councils in 2018-2019. Other highlights included a series of coffee-sharing activities, 45-day online countdown, tram publicity campaign, ICAC Open Day, ICAC Drama Premiere and parenting activities to disseminate probity messages at the Hong Kong Book Fair 2019. It was encouraging to note that through various community engagement activities, CRD had reached out to around 853 000 people.

The Committee highly commended CRD’s endeavours to keep abreast of the latest development of the new media and continue to use multi-media platforms to enhance the impact and permeability in putting across anti-corruption messages in the community. On the mass media front, the new ICAC television drama series *ICAC Investigators 2019* adapted from completed ICAC cases were broadcast in the year with extensive multi-media publicity. A viewership of over 7.2 million was recorded in seven days on various platforms. Within 30 days of broadcast, the programme attracted online views of a total of two million. Riding on the theme of “Times change. The mission continues.”, a new corporate advertising campaign, using “coffee” as the creative concept, was launched in early 2019. A full-fledged multi-media campaign had been rolled out to widely arouse public awareness of the ICAC’s commitment to fight corruption in changing times.

On the new media front, the “All for Integrity” Facebook Fanpage, which had accumulated over 19 400 page “likes”, continued to use an interactive and appealing approach to engage the public to support the anti-corruption cause and maintain vigilance against corruption risks in their daily life. A two-year multi-media “Youth-for-Youth” co-creation project had directly engaged young people including ICAC Ambassadors and ICAC Club Youth Chapter members to work with the ICAC in creating contents for social media publicity. These online activities, including an infotainment programme introducing anti-bribery laws, social experiments on integrity and personal ethics, animation, as well as docu-interviews with positive public figures, aimed at reinforcing the core value of integrity amongst the younger generation. Overall speaking, the Committee was pleased to note that 4.8 million visits were recorded in 2019 for various online platforms of the ICAC and its partners.

***Youth Education***

The Committee highly regarded CRD’s persistence in nurturing the core value of integrity amongst young people at different stages of education through tailored programmes. *Gee-Dor-Dor* animated teaching resources on moral education for children were produced during the year while CRD continued to run interactive drama performances, as well as the iTeen Leadership Programme well received by secondary students, and the Personal Ethics Module and the ICAC Ambassador Programme for tertiary students. ICAC Ambassadors were selected to join CRD’s summer internship programme so that they could have first-hand experience in promoting probity values in the community. Under the 2018-19 internship programme, a five-day exposure training on the law enforcement work of the Operations Department was included to further enrich participants’ understanding of the ICAC’s anti-corruption work. The Committee was glad to learn that a two-year “Reading for Integrity” Project to promote positive values among young children through picture book reading activities was under preparation. Efforts were also made to further engage ICAC Club Youth Chapter members in planning and implementing activities that disseminate probity messages, including the Anti-Corruption Walks for members of the public.

***Civil Service Integrity***

The CRD had been working closely with the Civil Service Bureau to embed ethical culture in the civil service under the Ethical Leadership Programme through regular visits, seminars and intranet platforms. The Committee complimented CRD’s sustained efforts to enhance integrity training for different levels of government officers including high-ranking civil servants and public officials. The CRD also continued to promote to government bureaux / departments the adoption of a training cycle for their staff. The Committee was glad to note that a new training video was produced while a new web learning package, comprising multi-media and interactive elements, was under production to complement or supplement existing integrity efforts for government bureaux / departments.

***Business Ethics Promotion***

The Committee valued CRD’s strenuous efforts to promote ethical governance and integrity management to the business community through the Hong Kong Business Ethics Development Centre (HKBEDC). To tie in with the implementation of the new regulatory regime for insurance intermediaries, the HKBEDC collaborated with the Insurance Authority and 12 industry bodies to kick-start a two-year “Integrity for Success” Ethics Promotion Campaign for the Insurance Industry. The campaign aimed at strengthening integrity amongst practitioners and entrenching a probity culture in the industry. HKBEDC’s efforts so far included producing new training videos and an online continuous professional development course, revamping the contents on the anti-corruption laws in the qualification examination, and setting up a dedicated web portal to provide a full range of integrity training resources.

The Committee was also pleased to note that the HKBEDC formed a “Starting-Up Right! Connectors Network” in the year to sustain ICAC’s efforts in helping start-ups adopt ethical business practices in view of the proliferation of start-up businesses in Hong Kong. Incubators, accelerators, start-up communities and organisations that co-ordinate local start-ups activities were invited to join the Network to help promote anti-corruption messages.

***Clean Elections***

The Committee commended CRD’s full-fledged efforts in upholding clean public elections. For the rural elections held in early 2019, the ICAC launched a comprehensive educational and publicity campaign, including a series of new educational filmlets, briefings for candidates and prospective candidates, reference materials to candidates and voters, and roving exhibitions in rural districts, to promote “Support Clean Elections” messages. Regarding the 2019 District Council Election, a multi-faceted educational and publicity programme had also been rolled out in two stages, with the first themed on “Anti-vote-rigging” to tie in with the Voter Registration Campaign and the second focusing on voting. Apart from organising briefings and producing pamphlets, information booklets and reference materials for candidates, election helpers and electors, educational filmlets and web videos were also produced while clean election messages were widely disseminated through multi-media channels to broaden the publicity mileage.

***Corruption Prevention in Building Management***

The Committee appreciated CRD’s sustained efforts to provide preventive education services on building management to owners’ corporations and related building management bodies. The CRD had also collaborated with the Home Affairs Department in arranging briefing sessions on clean building maintenance since the launch of the Central Platform on Building Management in 2018. In addition to the provision of enquiry hotline services, a dedicated website on building safety for various subsidy schemes comprising corruption prevention and education information was launched in April 2019.

**SUBCOMMITTEES**

During the year, the Media Publicity and Community Research Subcommittee offered valuable advice to the CRD on its strategy to maximise the use of the mass and new media to promote anti-corruption messages, in particular the multi-media publicity for the new ICAC television drama series as well as the launch of the “Youth-for-Youth” co-creation project. Moreover, the Subcommittee contributed expert advice on conduct of the ICAC Annual Survey, to gauge public attitudes towards corruption.

The Preventive Education and Public Engagement Subcommittee contributed insightful advice to the CRD on its preventive education work for different sectors, including the “Support Clean Elections” Programme, publicity campaign for the ICAC 45th Anniversary and production of the new web learning package for civil servants.

**APPRECIATION**

I wish to extend my greatest appreciation to members of the CACCR and its Subcommittees for their contributions and staunch support during the year. I would also like to thank staff members of the CRD who served the Committee with professionalism and commitment.

Timothy TONG Wai-cheung, BBS, JP

Chairman

Citizens Advisory Committee on Community Relations

**Annex A Citizens Advisory Committee on Community Relations**

**Terms of Reference (as at 31 December 2019)**

1. To advise the Commissioner of the Independent Commission Against Corruption measures to be taken to foster public support in combating corruption and educate the public against the evils of corruption.
2. To receive and call for reports on action taken by the Community Relations Department of the Commission in pursuance of the above.
3. To monitor community response to the Commission’s work and public attitudes towards corruption in general.

**Annex B Citizens Advisory Committee on Community Relations**

**Membership (as at 31 December 2019)**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Prof Timothy TONG Wai-cheung, BBS, JP | (Chairman) |
| Mr Mac CHAN Ho-ting |  |
| Ms Bonnie CHAN Shum-yue |  |
| Ms Catalina CHAN Yuen-ling | |  |
| Ms Quince CHONG Wai-yan, JP |  |
| Ms Julianne Pearl DOE |  |
| Prof Anthony FUNG Ying-him |  |
| Mr Eddy HUI Shun |  |
| Mr Chris IP Ngo-tung, JP |  |
| Prof LAU Chi-kuen, JP |  |
| Mr James MOK Hon-fai |  |
| Mr Webster NG Kam-wah |  |
| Mr Victor PANG Wing-seng |  |
| Mr Rocky TUNG Yat-ngok |  |
| Ms Gigi WONG Ching-chi |  |
| Mr WONG Wai-kit, MH |  |
| Commissioner, Independent Commission Against Corruption | (ex officio) |

***Co-opted Members***

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Mr David CHAN Tsz-pui  Ms Vivian IP |  |
| Ms Sonia LAM Pik-chu, MH |  |
| Ms Eleanor LI Po-yee |  |
| Mr SIU Yue-hei |  |
| Mr Anthony SO Chun-hin |  |
| Mr Keith WONG Tsz-wai |  |
| Mr James CHENG Lap-yan | (ex officio) |
| Dr Andy TAM Ka-keung | (ex officio) |

1. Δ Figures revised to take account of the updating of reclassified cases and completed cases. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Individual percentages do not add up to 100 due to rounding [↑](#footnote-ref-2)