**2020 Annual Report**

**Independent Commission Against Corruption**

**Hong Kong Special Administrative Region**

**of the People’s Republic of China**



**2020 Annual Report**

**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.

**Citizens Advisory Committee on Community Relations**

**Corruption Prevention Advisory Committee**

**Operations Review Committee**

**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**

2020 was a year fraught with challenges. While the coronavirus pandemic brought about an unprecedented global crisis, Hong Kong as an open economy had greater adversities to overcome amidst the geopolitical tensions and trade war. In the face of these challenges, the Independent Commission Against Corruption (ICAC) remained steadfast and unwavering in discharging the anti-corruption mission and statutory mandates through its robust holistic strategy of law enforcement, prevention and community education, and strived to foster worldwide network through international and regional partnerships in graft-fighting. During the year which was interspersed with special work arrangements due to the pandemic, the ICAC has adopted more agile and flexible measures to ensure the efficacy of our work. The ICAC has gone through ups and downs with our city and progressed in pace with our fellow citizens over the past 46 years. This year, apart from busting the scourge of corruption, more than 300 officers of the ICAC actively participated in the Government’s voluntary services group to contribute the best of their abilities in fighting the pandemic thereby showing their fervent community spirit.

**A CITY WITH ENTRENCHED PROBITY CULTURE**

Integrity is one of the undisputed core values and key pillars sustaining the stability and prosperity of Hong Kong. Facing the roller coaster of changes in the year, the ICAC remained persevered and carried on with its mission to combatting corruption in both the public and private sectors, promoting the values of rule of law and probity among different strata of the society, and engaging the public to foster a clean society. Hong Kong’s anti-corruption efforts and its status as one of the cleanest places in the world have been well recognised globally. According to the *Corruption Perceptions Index 2020* released by Transparency International, Hong Kong was rated the 11th least corrupt place among 180 counties and territories, up five places from the 2019 edition, the highest ranking for the city since the Index was launched in 1995.

In 2020, corruption in Hong Kong continued to remain at very low level. According to the *ICAC Annual Survey 2020*, almost all respondents (98.4%) had not encountered corruption personally in the past 12 months. The public stayed vigilant and abhorred corruption, as shown by the zero tolerance attitude embraced by the survey respondents - on a scale of 0 (total intolerance) to 10 (total acceptance), the mean score of tolerance to corruption was only 0.4, and 81.7% of the respondents indicated that they would report corruption if they were aware of it.

To sustain this probity culture, the ICAC has exerted persistent efforts to eradicate corruption through the well-tested three-pronged strategy to create synergy among the Operations Department, Corruption Prevention Department and Community Relations Department of the ICAC and sustain the long-term effect of its work. Notwithstanding the intermittent special work arrangements and the social distancing measures implemented during the year due to the pandemic, our colleagues endeavoured to achieve their work objectives through swift response, professional dedication and proactive use of the information technology and innovative initiatives.

**law enforcement**

The ICAC is as determined as ever to discharge its enforcement duties. In 2020, the ICAC received 1 924 non-election related corruption complaints, representing a decrease of 16% when compared to 2019. Of these complaints, 59% concerned the private sector, 33% were related to government bureaux/departments (B/Ds) and 8% involved public bodies. The drop in corruption complaints was across the board, with the decline in the private sector more prominent. The decrease in corruption complaints may be attributed to the substantial drop in economic activities during the pandemic, as well as the public’s preoccupation with various other socio-economic issues. The ICAC will closely monitor the potential corruption risks at the times of economic downturn.

Hong Kong remains clean and honest across both the public and private sectors. In the private sector, building management, construction, and finance and insurance subsectors remained the areas which attracted the most complaints. Corruption complaints concerning the finance and insurance subsector registered the highest drop among all subsectors. Corruption complaints concerning building management, though continued to top the list among all subsectors, had recorded a downward trend since 2017.

Despite the pandemic and the special work arrangements, the ICAC continued to take robust enforcement actions by pursuing each and every complaint and handling all investigations professionally and impartially. In the year, 153 persons were prosecuted, representing an increase of 14% when compared to 2019. The person-based and case-based conviction rates for non-election offences were respectively 86% and 87%, an increase of 11 and 8 percentage points when compared to 2019.

The ICAC received 850 election complaints concerning the District Council Election held in November 2019, and 18 related to the Legislative Council Election originally scheduled for September 2020. To ensure that the public elections are clean and fair, the ICAC offered advice to the Government for enhancing the integrity of the operation of polling and counting stations, and launched a publicity programme “Support Clean Legislative Council Election” in March 2020. As the 2020 Legislative Council Election was postponed, a number of planned education and publicity activities were re-scheduled.

**prevention OF corruption**

The prevention of corruption amidst the pandemic was an on-going global concern in the year. During the pandemic, the ICAC made meticulous efforts in offering corruption prevention services to the public and private sectors to help them plug corruption loopholes in systems and procedures through the proactive use of the information technology, in addition to the traditional face-to-face consultation. In the year, the ICAC continued its prevention-at-source strategy and partnership approach to assist B/Ds and public bodies to mitigate corruption risks and strengthen their graft prevention mechanisms, in particular concerning areas of major public interest. The ICAC also provided corruption prevention advisory services to private organisations with a view to enhancing business integrity and safeguarding a level playing field in the business environment.

In 2020, the ICAC completed 65 detailed assignment studies and offered tailored corruption prevention advice on over 970 occasions to help B/Ds and other organisations incorporate effective corruption-resistant safeguards in their policies, initiatives and operations such as enhancing the system integrity of the Hong Kong Growth Portfolio, developing an integrity management system for adoption by public works contractors, and strengthening the initial public offering procedures of the Hong Kong Exchanges and Clearing Limited and the Securities and Futures Commission. The ICAC strived to promote the use of electronic technology and information system in enhancing governance and control in public administration and services, and advised various B/Ds in the effective application of information technology to strengthen supervision and monitoring, automation and streamlining of processes, such as the adoption of a digital works supervision system by construction consultants and contractors.

To stay abreast of the latest social development and address areas of public concern, a wide range of corruption prevention guides were published during the year covering the important areas of regulatory enforcement for non-disciplined enforcement agencies, kindergartens’ operations, works supervision, operations of insurance companies and implementation of transitional housing projects by non-governmental organisations.

The ICAC’s Corruption Prevention Advisory Service spared no effort in offering free and confidential corruption prevention advice to the private sector in the year. Various corruption prevention resources, including corruption prevention guides, training videos and case studies, were also developed and published through the dedicated Corruption Prevention Advisory Service web portal for reference and use by various companies and organisations. In 2020, the average monthly visits to the web portal was more than 18 400, registering a substantial surge of over 75% as compared to the previous year.

**Anti-Corruption Education**

To hammer home anti-corruption message to different sectors of the community amidst social distancing measures, the ICAC continued to reach out to the community by taking on a flexible and resilient approach by combining face-to-face outreach with online talks, virtual seminars, livestreaming trainings and web-based interactive activities. In the year, the ICAC had reached all Principal Officials and officials appointed under the Political Appointment System; launched a new *Integrity Management e-learning Platform for Civil Servants* to strengthen civil servants’ understanding of anti-corruption laws and enhance their alertness to corruption pitfalls, conflict of interest and personal ethical dilemma under different circumstances; and conducted over 700 online anti-corruption talks and trainings for all sectors of the community.

The ICAC’s Hong Kong Business Ethics Development Centre forged close ties with different chambers of commerce, trade associations and professional bodies as well as various industries and corporations in promoting ethical business practices, and organised exchange sessions to brief corporate executives on good corporate governance, the gist of the anti-bribery law and corruption-prone areas in business operations. At a livestreaming event to mark its 25th anniversary, the Centre and our partner institutions renewed pledge to promote business and professional ethics for sustaining a level playing field in Hong Kong. A case in point of the solid partnership that the ICAC has formed with various stakeholders to promote business and professional integrity is the joint project with the Insurance Authority and 12 industry bodies to launch the “Integrity for Success” Ethics Promotion Campaign for the Insurance Industry in the year to enhance practitioners’ understanding of corruption risks and entrench the importance of professional ethics.

Integrity and rule of law are closely intertwined. The ICAC placed great emphasis on cultivating integrity and law-abiding awareness in younger generations. The ICAC adopted a developmental approach to instill the aforesaid positive values among young people at different learning stages, including producing a series of picture books under the “Reading for Integrity” project for kids; arranging ICAC Interactive Drama for secondary school students; organising Anti-corruption Walk in which participating secondary and tertiary students learnt the importance of probity and the rule of law; and engaging young people to develop creative concepts for social media programmes under the “Youth-for-Youth” co-creation projects to tap their imagination to present probity messages in a vivid and interesting ways and reinforce their core value of integrity and positive outlook through the process.

**Forging closer ties with global partners**

On the international and regional fronts, despite the fact that face-to-face exchanges were inevitably disrupted by lockdowns, travel restrictions and quarantine measures under the pandemic, the ICAC continued to maintain collaboration with anti-graft counterparts overseas and from the Mainland of China, and extend its global network via online platforms.

In the year, prior to the pandemic, the ICAC participated in an international symposium held by the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation in Malaysia to share ICAC’s anti-corruption experience, and took the opportunity to meet with the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission and other international anti-corruption organisations to explore training collaboration. The ICAC also organised online capacity building programmes for graft fighters of various countries, namely Bosnia and Herzegovina, Moldova, Mongolia, Myanmar, Romania and Thailand. On invitation of the National Commission of Supervision, the ICAC shared with Mainland enterprises participating in the Belt and Road Initiative Hong Kong’s experience in preventing corruption. Through the *ICAC Post* which had over 17 000 subscribers across the world, our staunch stance on anti-graft work and strong rule of law was emphasised to analysts of international ranking institutions and business and public sector leaders in different places to dispel misconceptions, and clarify incomprehensive and inaccurate comments and reports against the rule of law of Hong Kong. The ICAC also participated in various webinars hosted by international and regional organisations to share experience in fighting corruption with participants from all over the world and exchange views on corruption risks and challenges during the coronavirus pandemic.

As an Executive Committee member and the Training Committee convenor of the International Association of Anti-Corruption Authorities (IAACA), the ICAC leveraged its anti-corruption experience and wide international network to contribute to the global anti-corruption community. In view of the worldwide demand for anti-corruption agencies to build up anti-corruption capabilities on various aspects, the ICAC proactively helped map out training initiatives for the IAACA, coordinated training programmes and provided advisory services for its member organisations. Following the inaugural anti-corruption training programme held in Hong Kong in 2019, the ICAC actively explored with different anti-corruption agencies and international institutions in co-organising international training programmes with the IAACA Training Committee in the coming two years.

To further advance collaboration on anti-corruption under the Outline Development Plan for the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area, the ICAC, Guangdong Provincial Commission of Supervision and the Commission Against Corruption of Macao maintained ongoing liaison in the year with a view to organising the second tripartite meeting online in the first half of 2021.

**OUTLOOK FOR THE FUTURE**

The global pandemic situation remains volatile and it may take some time for Hong Kong and societies around the world to recover. As the dedicated graft-fighting agency in Hong Kong, the ICAC would remain committed to combatting corruption and fostering a culture of probity in the community and be more resilient and agile in our work. With the Legislative Council Election and Election Committee Subsector Election to be held in 2021, the ICAC will be dedicated to ensure the integrity of the election and enforce the Elections (Corruption and Illegal Conduct) Ordinance professionally and effectively. We would also join hands with B/Ds, law enforcement and regulatory authorities, and other stakeholders to uphold the rule of law, sustain a clean and efficient public sector and a level-playing field for businesses as well as enhance international network to help Hong Kong continue to uphold its fair and robust system, and enhance its edges as a livable, competitive and clean global metropolis.

**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*.

ADM also performs the following corporate and administrative functions:

* 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**

As the corporate arm of the ICAC, ADM provides professional support to the Operations, Corruption Prevention and Community Relations Departments in fulfilling their mandates and at the same time oversees the consistent application of and compliance with government regulations and procedures in processing management and administrative matters within the ICAC.

**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**

As at the end of 2020, the Commission had, against an establishment of 1 511, a staff strength of 1 417, including 1 044 in the Operations Department, 66 in the Corruption Prevention Department, 164 in the Community Relations Department and 143 in the Administration Branch. During the year, 43 departmental grades officers and 28 general and support grades officers ceased service with the ICAC, resulting in an overall wastage rate of 5.0 per cent.

ICAC staff are normally appointed on gratuity-bearing agreements. Some 77 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 Corruption Prevention Department, the Community Relations Department, ADM and the General and Support Grades, as well as arranging general training for officers of the Operations Department. The Section also manages the training facilities of the ICAC, including its Learning Resources Centre, Cyber Learning Centre, Training Camp, multi-purpose hall and gymnasium.

In 2020, 20 in-house courses and seminars with an accumulated attendance of 903 officers were conducted, while 335 officers were placed to training courses organised by government departments or external organisations. A wide range of professional development courses, job-related briefings, knowledge sharing seminars, management skills courses, language and information technology training, etc. were organised to help officers keep abreast of the latest trend in their related fields and further enhance their professional, management and job skills. Running alongside the trend of e-learning and continuous learning, the Section exploited the opportunity arising from the special work from home arrangement to promote training and the use of learning resources online. Almost four-fold and more than seven-fold increase in course registration and access to the Cyber Learning Centre were recorded respectively, compared to 2019.

**Distribution of courses by major types of training**

**95 officers (8%)**

**67 officers (5%)**

**69 officers (6%)**

**258 officers (21%)**

**414 officers (33%)**

**335 officers (27%)**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Course Content** | |
|  | Cross-cultural Communications and International Business Etiquette, Event Management, Anti-bribery Management Systems, Internal Auditing, Government Procurement Policy, Insurance Industry and Administrative Matters |
|  |  |
|  | Comparison of the Judicial Systems between Hong Kong and Mainland and Communication with Young Generation |
|  |  |
|  | Presentation Skills, Coaching and Counselling |
|  |  |
|  | Integrity Management, Supervisory and Communication Skills |
|  |  |
|  | Induction Course, Software Applications, Language courses |
|  |  |
|  | Various trainings provided by the Civil Service Training and Development Institute, other government departments / public bodies and external training organisations |

**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. In the year, while following strictly the work from home arrangements and social distancing measures for fighting the coronavirus pandemic, the Section had organised various face-to-face events and activities. During the year, activities organsied by the Section included:

* Staff consultative committee - To allow staff to directly express their views on matters relating to conditions of service, welfare and issues of common concern. During the year, a total of nine staff consultative committee meetings were held.
* Sporting, recreational and social activities - To promote a healthy life style and work-life balance among staff. Staff participated in a total of 17 activities in 2020.
* Staff Suggestions Scheme- To encourage staff to contribute improvement suggestions on making the best use of resources, enhancing work efficiency and promoting green management, etc. In 2020, the ICAC Staff Suggestions Committee considered 27 suggestions and granted 8 awards to the winners.
* Credit Union - To promote thrift and provide credit facilities to its members in accordance with the Credit Unions Ordinance (Cap 119). At the end of 2020, the Credit Union had 825 members with a total savings of $160 million.

**OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH**

The ICAC is committed to providing and maintaining a safe and healthy work environment for all staff. There are 93 officers 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.

During the year, training courses on fire safety, handling of suspicious objects, and safety in construction sites and confined spaces operation were arranged to meet operational needs of our staff.

To promote the awareness of OSH, thematic panels were displayed from time to time. We also updated and disseminated OSH information through intranet regularly.

**GREEN MANAGEMENT**

The ICAC is committed to promoting and creating 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 ICAC’s environmental performance. The Committee also analyses feedback and suggestions on green management and actively identifies new green initiatives. In 2020, the ICAC continued to implement and organise the following green measures and activities.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 01 | Implementation of Energy Saving Measures |
| 02 | Procurement of Environmentally Friendly Equipment |
| 03 | Prepared Food in Smaller Portions According to Demand |
| 04 | Distribution of Potted Plants |

**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 enhance the Commission’s transparency and keep the public abreast of its anti-corruption initiatives through various media platforms.

During the year, the Office issued a total of 168 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 120 enquiries from the media in 2020.

ICAC officers from different departments and units gave a total of six 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, such as the 25th Anniversary campaign of ICAC’s Hong Kong Business Ethics Development Centre, the “Reading for Integrity” moral education project as well as the Anti-corruption Walk event.

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 is responsible for co-ordinating non-operational international liaison, promoting ICAC’s work in the global arena, providing international anti-corruption capacity building and consultancy service to anti-corruption agencies of various jurisdictions, and conducting anti-corruption research and analysis.

On offering capacity building programmes and consultancy service to our counterparts of other jurisdictions, the Group has established connections with nearly 60 countries which are States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption. In 2020, the Group’s face-to-face exchanges with overseas agencies was disrupted by the global pandemic. To cope with worldwide travel restrictions, the Group took swift action to sustain close contacts with overseas agencies via online platforms and organised six online capacity building programmes for the anti-corruption agencies of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Moldova, Mongolia, Myanmar, Romania and Thailand, reaching a total of 134 graft fighters. Senior ICAC officers also shared Hong Kong’s anti-corruption experience and strategies and discussed training collaborations with our counterparts of Estonia, Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan via online platforms.

On Mainland liaison, the Group maintained collaboration with the National Commission of Supervision, the Guangdong Provincial Commission of Supervision and the Commission Against Corruption of Macao with a view to taking forward the anti-corruption work in the Greater Bay Area. During a seminar organised by the National Commission of Supervision, ICAC’s experience in fostering corporate governance and promoting quality compliance in the private sector was shared with Mainland enterprises participating in the Belt and Road Initiative.

In the year, the Group continued to update the international arena on Hong Kong’s latest integrity environment, robust anti-corruption regime as well as the city’s strong system based on the rule of law through the online platform “International Perspective” on ICAC’s corporate website. ICAC senior officers shared the Commission’s anti-corruption strategies and best practices in various international forums, including the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Symposium on Gender Mainstreaming and Women Empowerment to Fight Corruption held in Malaysia, the Opening Symposium of the Inaugural Asia-Pacific Integrity School organised by Griffith University and Transparency International Australia, and a virtual workshop hosted by the World Justice Project in Transparency International’s 19th International Anti-Corruption Conference.

The Group manages the Centre of Anti-Corruption Studies and International Training which houses a library with a collection of books, journals, literature and legal publications. With these useful resources, the Group continued to maintain mutual exchange with local and overseas academia and practitioners and conducted research projects on different subjects to support anti-corruption training and consultancy services.

**AWARDS AND COMMENDATIONS**

In 2020, three 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, three officers were awarded the Chief Executive’s Commendation for Community Service and one officer was awarded the Chief Executive’s Commendation for Government/Public Service. One hundred and nineteen officers also received long service awards. In addition, one officer received the ICAC Commissioner’s Commendation and 20 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. Nevertheless, due to the coronavirus pandemic and the associated travel restrictions and quarantine measures, visits programmes by delegations from other jurisdictions have been postponed or cancelled causing a significant drop in the number of overseas visitors to the ICAC. In the year, 56 persons from one international organisation and six countries/territories visited the ICAC for experience sharing and mutual exchange.

**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 (ICAC) Ordinance (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 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 independent Operations Review Committee (ORC) appointed by the Chief Executive. 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.

For completed investigations, the ORC scrutinises the reports before endorsing the recommendations of taking no further actions by the ICAC and the disposal of residual non-criminal issues such as referral to other government departments for consideration of disciplinary actions or other regulatory bodies for appropriate actions.

**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 analyses and forwards the evidence gathered in investigations to the Department of Justice (DoJ) for consideration of instituting prosecution.

**SOURCES OF CORRUPTION CASES**

***Corruption Complaints***

Members of the public are encouraged to report 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 complaints[[1]](#footnote-1), OPS received a total of 1 924 corruption complaints in 2020, representing a decrease of 16 per cent from that in 2019. The number of pursuable complaints was 1 454, or 76 per cent of the total, representing a decrease of 16 per cent when compared with 1 739[[2]](#footnote-2) complaints recorded in 2019. A breakdown of the corruption complaints received in 2019 and 2020 by sector is shown in Figure 4-1.

Figure 4-1 Corruption Complaints (Excluding Election Complaints) Recorded by Sectors in 2019 and 2020

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Recorded in 2019 | | Recorded in 2020 | |
| Pursuable Complaints | Non-Pursuable Complaints | Pursuable Complaints | Non-Pursuable Complaints |
| Hong Kong Police Force (HKPF) | 134 | 48 | 116 | 57 |
| Government Departments (excluding HKPF) | 267 | 198 | 282 | 174 |
| Public Bodies | 124 | 46 | 106 | 55 |
| Private Sector | 1 214 | 266 | 950 | 184 |

As regards election complaints, a total of 361 complaints[[3]](#footnote-3) (353 pursuable) were received in 2020 relating to public elections, of which most concerned the District Council (DC) Election held in November 2019 and the Legislative Council (LegCo) Election originally scheduled for September 2020. Up to the end of 2020, the ICAC registered a total of 850 election complaints for the 2019 DC Election and 18 election complaints for the 2020 LegCo Election (postponed). Among the 850 election complaints concerning the DC Election, 182 concerned the publishing of false or misleading statements about candidates, 115 concerned the use of or threatening to use force or duress against candidates and 112 concerned the bribing of electors and others at elections.

**INVESTIGATIONS AND PROSECUTIONS**

***Investigations***

In 2020, OPS handled 1 413 new cases (excluding election cases), a decrease of 17 per cent as compared to 1 704Δ cases (excluding election cases) in 2019. As at 31 December 2020, 1 395 cases were completed and 79 were pending legal advice. A comparison of the number of cases carried forward and completed in 2019 and 2020 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 348 new election cases in 2020.

Figure 4-2 Statistics on Caseload in 2019 and 2020  
(Excluding Election Cases)

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  |  | 2019 | | | 2020 | | |
|  | Cases brought forward from previous years |  | 1436 |  |  | 1179 |  |
| Add | New Cases | + | 1704 | △ | + | 1413 |  |
| Total caseload during the year | |  | 3140 |  |  | 2592 | △ |
| Less | Cases completed |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | from those commenced during the year | - | 728 | △ | - | 478 | # |
|  | from those brought forward | - | 1233 | △ | - | 917 | @ |
| Cases carried forward | |  | 1179 | △ |  | 1197 | \* |

△ 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 DoJ provide that a caution may be administered for minor offences when it is considered not in the public interest to prosecute. In 2020, 154 persons were prosecuted and 30 formally cautioned. A breakdown of the number of persons prosecuted or cautioned since 1974 is shown at Appendix 6.

Of those prosecuted, five were government servants, seven from public bodies and 136 from the private sector. The remaining six 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 (B/Ds), public bodies and the private sector prosecuted in 2020 for corruption and related offences.

Among the 142 private individuals prosecuted, 40 persons were charged for their involvement in corrupt transactions in the private sector contrary to section 9 of the POBO, five persons for offering advantages to public servants contrary to section 4(1) and section 8(2) of the POBO, one person with offences under the ECICO, 95 persons with offences connected with or facilitated by corruption or other related offences, and one person for having disclosed the identity of a person being investigated, contrary to section 30 of the POBO.

Appendix 8 shows the types of corruption and related offences prosecuted in 2020. 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 DoJ 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 2020, 17 such warnings were issued by the ICAC mainly concerning failure to lodge election returns in accordance with the requirements set out in section 37 and/or section 23(3) of the ECICO.

***Referrals***

During the year, the ICAC made 239 referrals of non-corruption nature to relevant B/Ds 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 107 government servants, compared to 91 in 2019, were forwarded to the heads of B/Ds concerned for consideration of disciplinary and/or administrative action in 2020. Cases involving three officers were resolved by the end of the year. Cases involving 55 officers carried forward from preceding years were completed in the year, resulting in disciplinary action taken against 26 officers.

**ICAC REPORT CENTRE AND DETENTION CENTRE**

***ICAC Report Centre***

The ICAC 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 ICAC Report Centre for handling. In 2020, 70 per cent of complainants identified themselves when reporting corruption.

**Figure 4-3 Mode of Reporting Corruption Complaints  
(Excluding Election-Complaints) – 2020**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | All  Complainants | Identifiable Complainants |
| By Phone | 40.5% | 56.2% |
| In Person | 15.0% | 21.4% |
| By Letter | 24.1% | 5.8% |
| Referred by Government Departments & Public Bodies / Source Reports | 11.3% | 10.6% |
| By E-mail | 8.6% | 5.6% |
| By Fax | 0.5% | 0.4% |

***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 ICAC Ordinance. 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* containing details of the Order. This Notice is also displayed in cells, interview rooms and various conspicuous places in the Detention Centre.

In 2020, OPS arrested 283 persons, 19 of whom were government servants, as compared to 564 arrested (31 government servants) in 2019.

During the year, Justices of the Peace visited the Detention Centre on 23 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 2020, 159 minor corruption cases were handled by the Quick Response Team, representing 11 per cent of the pursuable cases received (excluding election cases), as compared to 202 cases or 12 per cent in 2019.

**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 court in relation to financial and accounting matters, conducting financial analysis and investigation, assisting in search operations and interviews. Training courses are also provided by FA Group officers to investigating officers to enhance their skills and knowledge in financial investigation. During 2020, the FA Group provided assistance to cases involving an aggregate sum of approximately $6.1 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 Organized and Serious Crimes Ordinance (Cap 455). As at December 2020, assets valued at $1,040.8 million continued to remain restrained. The Court of First Instance reserved judgment in respect of applications for two Confiscation Orders amounting to $12 million. In addition, applications for confiscating $85.16 million worth of realisable assets, in relation to two cases, were being dealt with by the courts.

Being the inter-governmental body dedicated to preventing global money laundering (ML) and terrorist financing, the Financial Action Task Force recommends that jurisdictions identify, assess, understand and mitigate ML and terrorist financing risks specific to them. The ICAC, being one of the key stakeholders, provided inputs to the Risk Assessment Unit of the Hong Kong Police Force in assessing ability and vulnerability of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region in combating ML, and the ML threat in respect of the predicate offence of corruption.

**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 and maintained operational liaison channels with various government departments and public bodies. In 2020, liaison meetings were held with these counterparts, including those from the 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. Directorate officers of OPS and the Prosecutions Division of the DoJ meet regularly to exchange their views on legal and enforcement issues of mutual concern. In June 2020, the meeting was held and co-chaired by the Head of Operations and the Director of Public Prosecutions.

**INTERNATIONAL AND MAINLAND LIAISON AND MUTUAL ASSISTANCE**

In 2020, while operational liaison and cooperation with international, Mainland China and Macao anti-corruption and law enforcement agencies were maintained, the coronavirus pandemic did bring intermittent interruptions. Notwithstanding the restrictions to travel, during the year, the International and Mainland (Operational) Liaison Section of OPS had on one occasion arranged ICAC officers to interview a witness in a jurisdiction outside Hong Kong, and one witness from Germany and another one from Mainland China travelling to Hong Kong to testify in court in two ICAC cases. OPS had also fully utilised technology in conducting liaison meetings and attending international conferences in order to overcome the difficulties caused by the restrictions.

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 2020, the ICAC handled 76 incoming requests, including 10 requests received in 2020. During the year, our overseas counterparts handled 10 requests from the ICAC under the relevant legislations for international investigative assistance, including two requests made in 2020.

The ICAC recognises the importance of collaboration with anti-corruption counterparts from other jurisdictions, as well as international and regional organisations, in preventing and fighting corruption. In particular, the ICAC represents Hong Kong, China in 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 a delegation from the Corrupt Practices Investigation Bureau of Singapore in 2020. Two video conference meetings were arranged between officers of the ICAC and the Corruption Eradication Commission of Republic Indonesia for experience exchange. Furthermore, ICAC officers attended 12 liaison functions and meetings with the Consulate Generals and their legal attachés in Hong Kong.

**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. In particular, the Unit timely equipped ICAC with suitable online meeting facilities to organise and attend various online events to address the new operational needs arising from the coronavirus pandemic.

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, such as smartphones, to communicate and 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 2020, the Section took part in 38 operations and processed 310 terabytes of data contained in the digital devices seized. The Section also maintains close liaison with other 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, the 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.

Appointed by the Chief Executive, the 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 DoJ 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, 15 non-criminal complaints made against the ICAC or its staff were processed. Three of the complaints were received in 2019 and the remaining 12 in 2020.

Of the three complaints received in 2019, one was found substantiated and two were unsubstantiated. In the substantiated case, the case officer of a corruption investigation, while engaged in other investigative commitments, had failed to inform the complainant of the investigation outcome at the earliest opportunity. The officer was given advice by a senior officer.

Of the 12 complaints received in 2020, two were found substantiated, six were unsubstantiated and the remaining four were still under investigation by the end of the year. In the first substantiated case, when the concerned officer visited another government department, he had behaved impolitely and offended a staff member of the other department. The officer was given a written warning. In the second substantiated case, a junior officer under the supervision of another officer had wrongly counted some Renminbi banknotes seized during an operation and recorded an incorrect sum with a discrepancy of less than a hundred Renminbi in the relevant records. Both officers were given a verbal warning for their negligence in the matter.

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

In 2020, upon advice of the DoJ, L Group commenced an investigation into one case of suspected corruption and related criminal offences concerning ICAC officers. The case was still under investigation by the end of the year.

**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 and maintenance 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 early 2020, a recruitment exercise for Assistant Investigators was conducted and the successful candidates attended an induction course stage I between December 2020 and April 2021. 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 early 2021 which aims to recruit another batch of Assistant Investigators in late 2021.

All frontline investigating officers were also provided with confrontation management refresher trainings which were held throughout the year.

During the year, 20 in-house courses and seminars with an accumulated attendance of 1 476 officers were conducted. Professional knowledge workshops on a diverse array of subjects, including recent development in the bribery law in private sector and election law and cases sharing, were also conducted. Thirty-three officers from OPS benefited from local external courses in both the public and private sectors. Separately, two 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, including the Investigators’ Command Course 2020 specially designed for newly promoted Investigators.

***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 of public administration impacting on people’s livelihood or safety, issues of public interest or concern, and programmes and projects involving substantial amounts of public money.
* Adopt a prevention-at-source strategy by providing proactive and timely corruption prevention 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 providing diversified services to enhance 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 and safety, 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 sustainable economic development.

Deliverables achieved in 2020:

* Completed 65 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 464 occasions, mainly in the formulation/review of legislation, policies or procedures to ensure that corruption prevention safeguards were built in at an early stage.
* Offered advisory service to private sector entities on 509 occasions upon request, and handled 744 public enquiries through CPAS hotline service.
* Conducted corruption prevention training for over 5 100 persons in both public and private sectors.
* Published a number of corruption prevention guides/toolkits illustrating the corruption risks and providing recommended safeguards for reference by different sectors, such as *Corruption Prevention Guide on Regulatory Enforcement for Non-disciplined Enforcement Agencies*, *Corruption Prevention Toolkit on Kindergartens’ Operations*, *Corruption Prevention Guide on Works Supervision*, *Corruption Prevention Guide for Insurance Companies* and the *Corruption Prevention Tips for the Non-governmental Organisations (NGOs) on Implementation of Transitional Housing Projects*. The publications were published through the CPAS Web Portal or the Government’s Central Cyber Government Office website*.*

**Proactive and Early INPUT TO GOVERNMENT’S NEW INITIATIVES**

The Government has launched a number of new initiatives in recent years that involve public-private partnership, funding schemes for specific purposes, and initiatives to drive innovation and technology development. To ensure that 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 and interactive input to the Government and public bodies responsible for these initiatives and projects during the early and preparation stages. CPD also follows up these initiatives with detailed reviews to ensure their robust and successful implementation. The following are examples of the aforesaid approach.

***Corruption Prevention Work in relation to Government's Initiatives on Innovation & Technology***

The Government has launched a wide-range of initiatives, involving billions of public money, for different government B/Ds and public bodies to promote Hong Kong as an innovation and technology hub. As part of the efforts to assist these organisations in ensuring their implementation of the initiatives are corruption resistant, CPD reviewed the procedures for administering two funding schemes under the Innovation and Technology Commission and another innovation and technology programme under the Hong Kong Science and Technology Parks Corporation. The reviews have come up with a host of recommendations to strengthen the related integrity management system and enhance controls in the administration of these schemes/programme. CPD also provided timely corruption prevention advice on more than 10 occasions to the Innovation and Technology Commission, and the Hong Kong Productivity Council on their seven innovation and technology related schemes/programmes, with a view to enhancing their transparency, ensuring adequate probity requirements are in place, and strengthening the control measures in administration procedures.

***Land Sharing Pilot Scheme***

The Development Bureau (DEVB) launched the Land Sharing Pilot Scheme (LSPS) in May 2020 to unleash the development potential of private land and to facilitate public housing development. Under LSPS, applicants are required to build the necessary infrastructure to support their proposed development and hand over to the Government at least 70% of the increased domestic gross floor area for public housing development. To ensure adequate corruption prevention measures are in place in this new scheme, CPD provided advice on the preliminary proposal on LSPS, system for declaration of interests by the panel of advisors, and operational guidelines for DEVB’s Land Sharing Office.

***Purchase of Premises for Provision of Welfare Facilities***

The Government has set aside $20 billion for the purchase of private properties from 2020 onwards for providing various welfare facilities in different districts. Subsequent to the initial views given at an interdepartmental meeting with representatives from the Social Welfare Department and the Government Property Agency in 2019, CPD offered further advice on some 20 occasions to both departments during their system design and guidelines development stages in 2020, covering integrity management, operational procedures and other issues.

***Transitional Housing Projects by Non-governmental Organisations***

The Government launched a funding scheme of $5 billion to support NGOs in constructing and operating transitional housing projects, with a target supply of 15 000 units within the coming three years. To assist grantee NGOs in mitigating the corruption risks inherent in the implementation of these projects, CPD proactively liaised with the Transport and Housing Bureau prior to the launch of the funding scheme to offer corruption prevention services to the NGOs. CPD had also drawn up handy publications illustrating the corruption risks and safeguards concerning the letting and administration of works contracts and works consultancies for the NGOs’ reference. CPD will continue to offer timely advice and services, including organising thematic seminars, to these NGOs to uphold integrity in the implementation of works projects and operation of transitional housing.

***Licensing Regime for Property Management Companies and Property Management Practitioners***

The Property Management Services Authority (PMSA), established in 2016, regulates the provision of property management services by companies and practitioners through a licensing regime that came into operation on 1 August 2020. Since its inception, CPD has been assisting PMSA to strengthen its governance and internal controls, such as reviewing its code of conduct for Board members and staff. CPD has also provided early corruption prevention advice on the licensing regime as well as the relevant licence application documents and procedural guidelines. Apart from providing early corruption prevention advice to PMSA on its codes of conduct and practices for licensed companies and practitioners, CPD will continue to offer timely corruption prevention assistance concerning the implementation of the new licensing regime, including building in corruption prevention safeguards in its complaint handling and disciplinary systems.

**ADDRESSING ISSUES OF PUBLIC CONCERN**

***Keeping Public Elections Clean***

In view of the various alleged malpractices in the 2019 District Council Election which aroused public concerns over the integrity of its polling and vote counting processes, CPD quickly conducted a review on the relevant procedures and recommended to the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau a number of improvement measures for the Legislative Council (LegCo) Election and other public elections in 2021-22. In addition, to mitigate vote-rigging risks in LegCo Functional Constituencies Elections, CPD has completed a visit programme to Specified Bodies, the members of which are eligible to register as voters of the relevant functional constituencies, to assist them in enhancing their membership administration systems. CPD will continue to collaborate with the Administration to further enhance the electoral processes and controls to keep public elections clean, including the LegCo Election in 2021.

***Management of Hawker Control Teams***

The Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD) has around 2 250 Hawker Control Officer grade staff at various ranks to control hawking activities and combat illegal shop front extensions and various environmental hygiene-related offences (e.g. littering). Since these staff perform outside duties at scattered locations which are difficult to monitor and from time to time there are media reports and complaints alleging them of loafing, dereliction of duties and other malpractices, CPD reviewed FEHD’s procedures for managing these staff. Noting that FEHD has put in place reasonable controls in its procedures, CPD provided corruption prevention advice for further refinement of the staff monitoring and management systems.

***Corruption Prevention Services on Regulatory Enforcement for Non-disciplined Service Departments and Public Bodies***

Regulatory enforcement is by nature prone to corruption and abuse. In order to assist non-disciplined service departments and public bodies to enhance their corruption prevention capability in carrying out regulatory enforcement work under their purview, CPD conducted research into the relevant corruption risks and developed a *Corruption Prevention Guide on Regulatory Enforcement for Non-disciplined Enforcement Agencies* providing a comprehensive system of recommended control measures to address the corruption risks identified. The Guide was uploaded to the Central Cyber Government Office and promulgated to relevant government departments and public bodies for their reference.

***Processing of Enhanced Bought Place Scheme Applications***

The Social Welfare Department has been purchasing residential places from private residential care homes for the elderly (RCHEs) through the Enhanced Bought Place Scheme to speed up the provision of subsidised RCHE places. RCHEs joining the Scheme receive a monthly fee to provide an agreed number of places for allocation by the Social Welfare Department, amounting to an annual recurrent expenditure of around $1.4 billion. In view of the substantial amount of public money involved and the inherent risks in the application processing of government funding schemes, CPD conducted a review on the related procedures, with recommendations on the application vetting process and site inspections of applicant RCHEs.

***Corruption Prevention Toolkit on Kindergartens’ Operations***

Kindergartens play a vital role in early childhood education. With the substantial financial support provided to kindergartens and thus increased public expectation on the kindergartens’ governance, it is imperative for kindergartens to put in place effective integrity management system and sound internal control system, both are essentials to good governance, to avert abuse and corrupt practices. CPD has therefore, in collaboration with the Education Bureau, developed a user-friendly and comprehensive *Corruption Prevention Toolkit on Kindergartens’ Operations* (the Toolkit), to provide practical corruption preventive tips on kindergartens’ major operations and a library of sample documents. The Toolkit was promulgated in late 2020, reaching about 1 000 kindergartens. In 2021, CPD will continue to explore with the Education Bureau on appropriate platforms for promulgating the Toolkit, and to provide tailor-made advice to individual kindergartens upon request.

***Enforcement of Occupational Safety Legislations on Construction Sites***

The construction industry has recorded the highest number of accidents among all industries in recent years, which gives rise to concerns over risks of corruption in the enforcement of occupational safety legislations on construction sites by the Labour Department (LD). CPD reviewed LD’s related practices and procedures, and provided corruption prevention advice on strengthening the control mechanism for conducting and monitoring inspections and accident investigation. LD was also recommended to conduct a holistic review of its enforcement strategy to facilitate effective enforcement.

***Abatement of Fire Hazards in Commercial Buildings***

The Fire Services Department takes enforcement actions to abate fire hazards in buildings to safeguard fire safety. To ensure adequate corruption prevention measures are in place, CPD has offered corruption prevention advice to the Fire Services Department on its procedures for abating fire hazards in commercial buildings, covering the handling of complaints, conduct of inspections, issue of fire hazard abatement notices, and taking of prosecution actions.

***Application and Allocation of Public Rental Housing Flats***

The Housing Department (HD) provides public rental housing (PRH) to people who have difficulties in affording private accommodation. As at June 2020, there were over 155 800 general applications registered for PRH. The current waiting time for the first flat offer for these applications is around 5.5 years, which is substantially longer than HD’s performance target of three years. Given that the demand for PRH significantly outstrips the supply, anxious applicants might have the incentive to expedite the application process through devious means. In light of the corruption risks and the public interest involved, CPD conducted a review of HD’s procedures for processing the application and allocation of PRH units, and made a number of recommendations to ensure that sufficient safeguards are in place.

**CORRUPTION PREVENTION work for target sectors**

***Corruption Prevention Work on Site Supervision System for Public Works Projects***

An effective and robust site supervision system is vital to ensure the quality of works and safeguard the public interest and safety. To this end, CPD completed a review of the site supervision systems for public works projects and assisted the DEVB and works departments with a view to strengthening the corruption prevention safeguards in the systems. CPD also provided advice to the DEVB in the development and implementation of the digital works supervision system in public works projects to ensure the integrity, reliability and robustness of the system. In respect of non-works departments and public bodies which also undertake construction projects, CPD produced a *Corruption Prevention Guide on Works Supervision* for their use in their projects and would assist them in adapting and adopting the corruption prevention measures recommended in the Guide. CPD also published the Guide through the CPAS web-portal for reference by private sector companies (e.g. construction companies, developers) and practitioners (e.g. works consultants) and would provide them with tailored advice upon request.

***Integrity Management System for Public Works Contractors***

Public works contractors play an important role in upholding the quality of public works projects. Following the Department’s review of DEVB’s management of approved list of public works contractors, CPD developed an Integrity Management System (IMS) and recommended DEVB to include IMS as a listing requirement for public works contractors. Further to CPD’s recommendation, DEVB conducted two rounds of consultations with the industry stakeholders and CPD had been assisting DEVB in refining the IMS requirements to suit the needs of the stakeholders. Upon the implementation of the revised listing requirements, CPD will continue to collaborate with DEVB to offer corruption prevention services to the public works contractors in setting up their IMS, which include offering advice to contractors when they draw up integrity policies, providing integrity training to the contractors, and developing integrity risk management plans of high-risk construction activities.

***Corruption Prevention Guide for Insurance Companies***

The Insurance Authority, established in 2015, took over the regulation of insurance companies and insurance intermediaries in 2017 and 2019, respectively. In view of the new regulatory regime and that some business operations in the insurance industry are by nature corruption prone, CPD collaborated with the insurance industry to develop the *Corruption Prevention Guide for Insurance Companies* (the Guide) for reference by the management of insurance companies in Hong Kong to assist them in establishing and strengthening their corruption prevention capabilities in their core operations. The Guide covers contents on anti-bribery legislation, elements of corporate governance and an internal control system, as well as the corruption risks and the corresponding safeguards in the core operations of an insurance company including management of insurance intermediaries, sales process, underwriting and claims verification procedures. CPD will promote the Guide in 2021, such as organising publicity events for promoting the Guide to the public and the insurance companies, distributing the Guide to insurance companies, as appropriate, and offering tailored corruption prevention advice to individual companies on request.

***Collaboration with Regulators to Enhance the Integrity of Initial Public Offering Procedures***

A corruption case relating to the Initial Public Offering (IPO) process of the Hong Kong Exchanges and Clearing Limited (HKEX) in 2019 has aroused public concern over the integrity of this important process. CPD proactively approached HKEX and the Securities and Futures Commission (SFC) to review their procedures for processing IPO applications and regulating sponsors. Noting that HKEX and SFC have improved and put in place reasonable controls in their procedures, CPD made recommendations to strengthen HKEX’s and SFC’s procedural control and relevant probity requirements as appropriate.

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

To raise private sector entities’ general awareness and facilitate the delivery of corruption prevention service to them, CPD launched a dedicated web portal in January 2017 for timely dissemination of corruption prevention resources (e.g. corruption prevention publications and training videos, case studies, red flags, corruption prevention tips). CPD has been continuously enriching and enhancing the web portal content, and promoting the web portal through the networks of government B/Ds and professional/regulatory/trade bodies to users across different business sectors. Since its launch and up to the end of December 2020, the web portal has attracted about 465 300 visits and with corruption prevention resources downloaded or viewed for over 155 500 times. There are also an accumulated total of about 10 300 subscribers who regularly receive the corruption prevention news, tools and resources. During the pandemic, the web portal played a particularly important function in providing uninterrupted corruption prevention services to the private sector.

**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.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Division 1 |  | Division 2 |
| * Publicise anti-corruption messages through the mass and new media * Promote business ethics and preventive education in different professions, trades and industries * Promote integrity and positive values among young people * Map out long term strategies with reference to research and surveys |  | * Provide face-to-face preventive education to different segments of the community including public sector, educational institutions, public elections and non-profit making organisations * Reach out to the public to enlist their support for ICAC's work * Receive corruption complaints and enquiries from public |

CRD has established seven Regional Offices (ROs) in the territory to conduct education work for different segments of the community. In the face of coronavirus pandemic in the year, CRD strived to sustain its anti-corruption momentum by customising the formats of its publicity and education programmes through the integrated use of face-to-face and online platforms. ROs continued to serve as focal points in the community for receiving corruption reports and handling enquiries about corruption. The detailed information of CRD’s structure and ROs is at Appendices 1 and 11 respectively.

**PUBLIC SECTOR INTEGRITY**

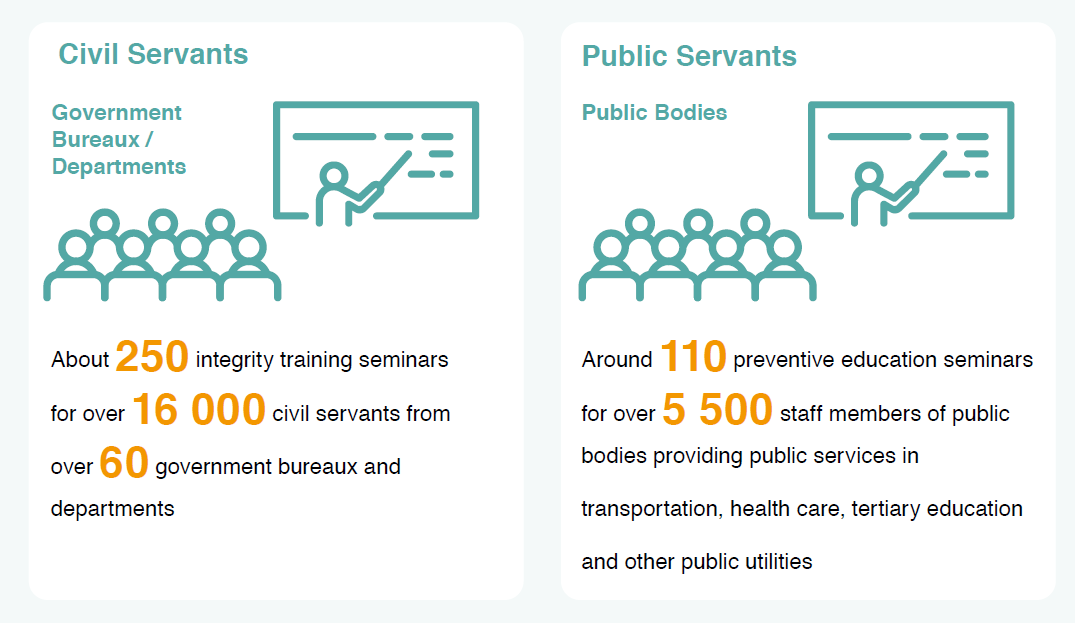
To foster and entrench the probity culture in the public sector, CRD continued to provide integrity training for civil servants and staff of public bodies.

To enhance ethical leadership in the Government, CRD:

* organised individual visits and group briefings on anti-corruption laws and integrity management to reach all the incumbent 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 (B/Ds) under the Ethical Leadership Programme to promote integrity culture across the civil service, including organising a thematic webinar on government procurement for Ethics Officers and a seminar on the common law offence of misconduct in public office for frontline civil servants.

CRD launched the *Integrity Management e-Learning Platform for Civil Servants* on the Cyber Learning Centre Plus website hosted by the Civil Service Training and Development Institute to complement or supplement existing integrity training efforts for B/Ds. CRD representatives also attended the Corruption Prevention Group meetings of B/Ds to promote the *Platform* and the adoption of a training cycle in their integrity training. New training videos and an integrity promotion package for public bodies were also being produced under the two-year Integrity Promotion Campaign for Public Sector.

**Integrity Training for Public Sector in 2020**



**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.

The year 2020 marked the 25th Anniversary of HKBEDC. Riding on this important milestone, HKBEDC continued to step up its promotional work through a series of activities including launching a revamped website (https://hkbedc.icac.hk) with enhanced functions and enriched content, hosting a livestreamed commemorative event and rolling out a publicity campaign to promote HKBEDC’s brand and services. To strengthen its brand identity and widen its exposure in the business community, HKBEDC also redesigned its logo and launched an official HKBEDC LinkedIn page.

Under the “Integrity for Success” Ethics Promotion Campaign for the Insurance Industry, HKBEDC promoted its services to over 3 200 insurance companies in Hong Kong. With the support of the Insurance Authority and 12 industry organisations, HKBEDC continued to arrange anti-corruption and ethics seminars, reaching about 7 500 insurance practitioners. Furthermore, an Ethics Promotion Website for the Insurance Industry was produced in the year to provide a collection of ethics-related resources for reference and use by insurance companies and intermediaries. A series of feature articles were also published on a free local newspaper to raise the ethical awareness of different industry stakeholders.

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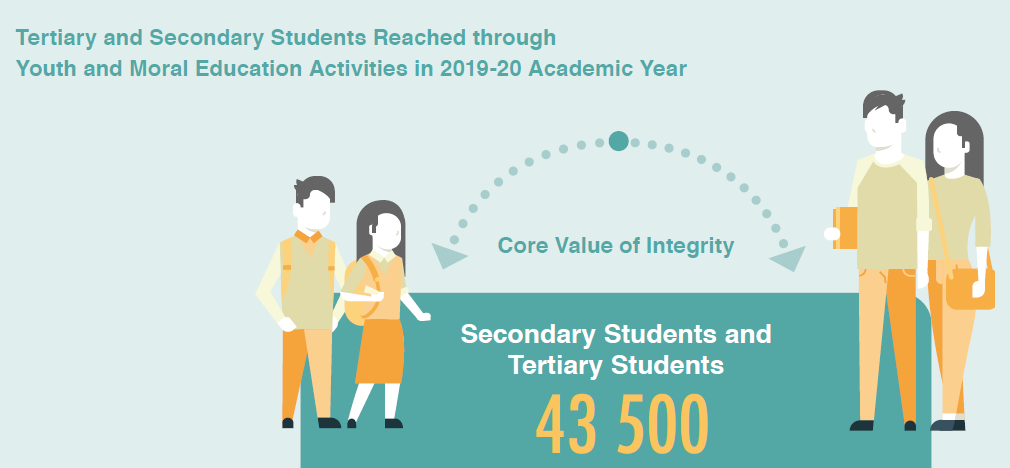
**YOUTH AND MORAL EDUCATION**

CRD continued to instil the core value of integrity amongst young people at different stages of education through tailored programmes.

The “Reading for Integrity” Project was launched in 2019-20 academic year to promote positive values among kindergarteners and primary school students. In addition to the production of four picture books with different moral themes, CRD organised a series of online training and publicity activities, including workshops and seminars for over 1 200 teachers as well as reading activities for over 1 800 kids and parents. Lesson plans and worksheets were also developed, reaching over 125 000 students from over 550 kindergartens and primary schools. To reinforce the impact, a “Reading Gala” was organised and participated by over 11 000 kids and parents online.

As for the secondary and tertiary levels, CRD continued to implement various youth engagement programmes to promote probity messages despite prolonged class suspension due to coronavirus pandemic. Students joining the iTeen Leadership Programme in secondary schools and ICAC Ambassadors Programme in tertiary education institutions were engaged in spreading integrity messages to their fellow schoolmates through creative means on e-platforms, reaching over 14 000 secondary and tertiary students in 2019-20 academic year. Selected ICAC Ambassadors also joined the ICAC’s summer internship programme to experience first-hand the promotion of probity values in the community. To equip the students with the necessary knowledge and skills in organising integrity promotion projects, online training sessions were offered to newly recruited iTeen Leaders and ICAC Ambassadors in 2020-21 academic year.

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



CRD continued to publish the *ICAC Periodical* which commemorated its 30thAnniversary in the year and maintain the Moral Education website (https://me.icac.hk) to render support for educators.

CRD also engaged a research agency to conduct a focus group study on youth attitudes towards probity and the reasons behind youngsters’ beliefs in the current social ambience. The findings would serve as a useful reference for CRD to suitably incorporate the concepts of anti-corruption, positive values and rule of law in formulating publicity strategies and integrity promotion programmes in future.

**COMMUNITY PUBLICITY AND PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT**

Since the launch of the “All for Integrity” Territory-wide Programme in late 2015, CRD has continued to pass on the values of integrity and sustain the probity culture in the society of Hong Kong. This year, CRD rolled out a series of publicity initiatives in creative formats under the Programme to reinforce integrity as one of the core values of Hong Kong and enlist the society’s joint efforts in sustaining a clean community. Highlights included publication of a booklet promoting leisure tour spots related to the history and significant cases of the ICAC, bus and MTR publicity campaigns and social media posts. Moreover, CRD initiated the Anti-corruption Walks in 18 districts by engaging Youth Chapter members of the ICAC Club in planning and implementing the activities. Online version of the Walks was debuted in the revamped “All for Integrity” mini-website.

During the year, CRD continued to collaborate with different organisations, including 18 District Councils, district organisations, voluntary associations, government departments and business chambers, to promulgate integrity messages to the public. To further introduce ICAC’s anti-corruption strategies and gauge public views and concern on the work of the ICAC, CRD officers also attended meetings of various district consultative committees, paid visits to district leaders and maintained close contact with district organisations in the year.

****

To enhance the understanding of District Council members on the work of the ICAC and integrity management, visits to ICAC Headquarters were organised for District Council members and their assistants while a leaflet containing the gist of related anti-corruption laws was also distributed to all District Council members.

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 corruption prevention talks, publicity materials, feature articles and radio programmes. A thematic webpage featuring information on “What is bribery in Hong Kong” and corruption reporting channels in English and eight other languages was launched 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. In spite of the social distancing measures due to the pandemic, training courses and gatherings of smaller scale were organised to keep enhancing members’ participation and sense of belonging. A dedicated website and a Facebook group were set up whilst a newsletter was issued regularly to maintain close ties with members and update them on the latest development of CRD’s anti-corruption work. ICAC Club members who had provided dedicated voluntary service were commended in an Annual Award Presentation Ceremony for their support and assistance in spreading integrity messages.

Riding on the successful experience of planning and implementing the Kowloon West Anti-corruption Walk for local youth in early 2020, Youth Chapter members joined working groups under respective ROs of CRD to plan the Anti-corruption Walks in different districts in Hong Kong for wider dissemination of the integrity and law-abiding messages across the territory.

**BUILDING MANAGEMENT**

To tie in with the Government’s Operations Building Bright 2.0, Fire Safety Improvement Works Subsidy Scheme and Lift Modernisation Subsidy Scheme, CRD continued to educate flat owners on 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 maintained a dedicated webpage and produced publicity materials to assist applicants of various subsidy schemes to uphold integrity in building management.

During the year, the ICAC continued to reach out to owners’ corporations and building management bodies through visits, talks and seminars, explaining the anti-corruption laws and corruption preventive measures. Although the number of face-to-face liaison activities was reduced because of the impact of coronavirus pandemic, about 14 000 counts of people were successfully reached through a marketing drive of poster exhibitions, quizzes and distribution of promotional pamphlets, etc.

The year 2020 was a milestone for the property management services industry in view of the implementation of a new licensing regime starting from 1 August 2020. CRD worked closely with the Property Management Services Authority to raise the anti-corruption awareness of property management companies and practitioners. With CRD’s efforts, anti-corruption law and integrity elements were incorporated into the Property Management Services Authority’s Specified Courses for practitioners organised by tertiary education institutions.

**CLEAN ELECTIONS**

Following the launch of a four-year multi-faceted “Support Clean Elections” campaign in 2019 to uphold the integrity and fairness of public elections, CRD continued to conduct a wide range of education and publicity activities for the 2020 Legislative Council (LegCo) Election which was subsequently postponed to 2021 due to the coronavirus pandemic.

On the education front, CRD arranged briefings and activities for members of political parties and specified bodies of functional constituencies, election helpers, district organisations, post-secondary students and elderly electors. A wide range of reference materials, including tailor-made information booklet and guidelines for candidates, information package for electors and various kinds of leaflets were distributed to remind the relevant stakeholders of the legislative requirements and the importance of upholding clean elections. CRD also set up a dedicated website to provide information on clean elections and operated a hotline to answer enquiries. Subsequent to the postponement of LegCo Election, the training for over 30 000 staff of polling stations, talks for members of elderly centres and staff of elderly homes that were originally planned were cancelled.

On the publicity front, diversified channels on online and offline platforms were engaged to disseminate clean election messages and remind election stakeholders to abide by the law. Multifarious means, such as television and radio advertisements, feature articles, posters, mass media and infotainment channels, were deployed to hammer home clean election messages. To maximise the reach to the community, CRD also conducted “Flash Roadshows” across the territory and launched a poster campaign at district level. Upon the announcement of postponement of LegCo Election, the publicity campaign was suspended.

**MEDIA PUBLICITY**

CRD continued to use multi-media platforms to publicise anti-corruption messages and enlist public support. Leveraging the characteristics of different platforms, CRD went all out to develop dynamic, interactive and visually enticing content to spread integrity messages. A strategic mix of out-of-home media publicity with public transport networks, social media and digital platforms enabled high infiltration of the messages to all walks of life.

The “Multi-media Youth-for-Youth Co-creation Project” was launched to enable the ICAC to collaborate with youngsters to co-create social media contents. CRD partnered with a number of Key Opinion Leaders, youngsters of different backgrounds and working youth in the production of web dramas, documentary-style interviews and social experiments, which were released on the “All for Integrity” Facebook Fanpage, Greedy Kin Instagram Account and the ICAC YouTube Channel.

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| --- | --- |
|  |  |
| Over 6.2 million visits to the ICAC and partner online platforms in 2020 | |

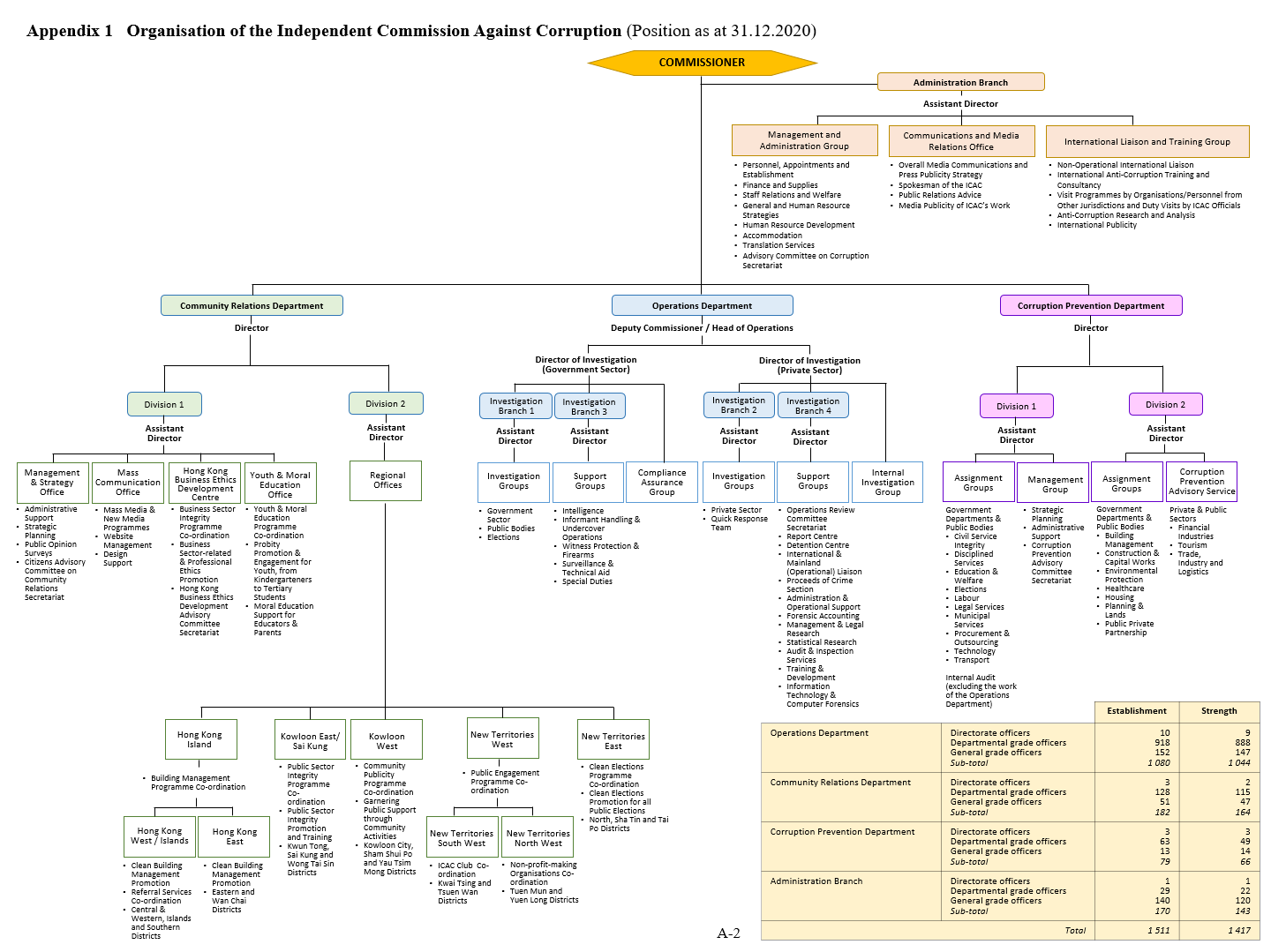
**ICAC ANNUAL SURVEY**

CRD kept on monitoring 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 response to the coronavirus pandemic, options to participate in the survey either through the customary face-to-face interviews or by telephone were offered to selected households. In total, 1 530 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 0.4. Almost all respondents (98.0%) considered that keeping a corruption-free society is important to the overall development of Hong Kong and a vast majority (93.2%) of the respondents considered the ICAC deserving their support. The survey also showed that experience of corruption was very uncommon in Hong Kong.

**Appendices**

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**Appendix 2 Membership Lists of Advisory Committees**

**(Position as at 31.12.2020)**

**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 |  |
| Dr Aron Hari HARILELA, BBS, JP |  |
| Mr Michael HO Mun-ka |  |
| Mr Hans Michael JEBSEN, BBS |  |
| Prof Paul LAM Kwan-sing, SBS, JP |  |
| Mr Paul LAM Ting-kwok, SC, JP |  |
| 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, BBS, MH, JP |  |
| Mr Albert SU Yau-on, MH, JP |  |
| Mr Winson WOO Lap-kee |  |
| Mr Alan YAU Hoi-ngan |  |
| 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, JP |  |
| 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, MH |  |
| Dr 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 |  |
| Dr Esther CHO Yin-nei |  |
| Ms Vivian IP |  |
| Mr KWONG Ka-shi |  |
| Ms Sonia LAM Pik-chu, MH |  |
| Ms Eleanor LI Po-yee |  |
| Mr Anthony SO Chun-hin |  |
| 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 2020 (Excluding Election Cases)** |

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Time taken to complete an investigation** | **No further action** | **Prosecution** | **Total** | **Percentage of total** |
| Less than 1 week | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0.0% |
| 1 - less than 2 weeks | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0.0% |
| 2 - less than 3 weeks | 3 | 0 | 3 | 0.6% |
| 3 - less than 4 weeks | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0.2% |
| ***Sub-total*** | ***4*** | ***0*** | ***4*** | ***0.8%*** |
| 1- less than 2 months | 20 | 0 | 20 | 4.2% |
| 2 - less than 3 months | 29 | 1 | 30 | 6.3% |
| 3 - less than 4 months | 58 | 0 | 58 | 12.1% |
| 4 - less than 5 months | 98 | 2 | 100 | 20.9% |
| 5 - less than 6 months | 82 | 2 | 84 | 17.6% |
| 6 months or more | 181 | 1 | 182 | 38.1% |
| **Total** | **472** | **6** | **478** | **100%** |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Appendix 4** | **Time Taken to Complete Investigation of Pursuable Cases Recorded before 2020 (Excluding Election Cases)** |

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Time taken to complete an investigation** | | **No further action** | **Prosecution** | **Total** | **Percentage of total** |
| Less than 1 month | | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0.0% |
| 1- less than 2 months | | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0.0% |
| 2 - less than 3 months | | 4 | 0 | 4 | 0.4% |
| 3 - less than 4 months | | 12 | 0 | 12 | 1.3% |
| 4 - less than 5 months | | 32 | 0 | 32 | 3.5% |
| 5 - less than 6 months | | 47 | 0 | 47 | 5.1% |
| 6 - less than 9 months | | 224 | 0 | 224 | 24.4% |
| 9 months - less than 1 year | | 320 | 4 | 324 | 35.3% |
| 1 - less than 2 years | | 166 | 52 | 218 | 23.8% |
| 2 years or more | | 26 | 30 | 56 | 6.1% |
| **Total** | | **831** | **86** | **917** | **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 2020 (Excluding Election Cases)** |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Time taken** | **Number of cases** | **Percentage of total** |
| Less than 1 month | 96 | 8.0% |
| 1- less than 2 months | 121 | 10.1% |
| 2 - less than 3 months | 115 | 9.6% |
| 3 - less than 4 months | 120 | 10.0% |
| 4 - less than 5 months | 81 | 6.8% |
| 5 - less than 6 months | 92 | 7.7% |
| 6 - less than 9 months | 205 | 17.1% |
| 9 months - less than 1 year | 106 | 8.9% |
| 1 - less than 2 years | 182 | 15.2% |
| 2 years or more | 79 | 6.6% |
| **Total** | **1 197** | **100%** |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Appendix 6** | **Number of Persons Prosecuted or Cautioned from 1974 to 2020** |

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 2020 (Classified by Government Bureaux/Departments and Others)** |

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | | | **Pending** | **Convicted** | **Acquitted** | **Total** |
| **Government Bureaux/Departments** | | |  |  |  |  |
| Hong Kong Police Force | | | 2 | 0 | 0 | **2** |
| Customs & Excise Department | | | 1 | 0 | 0 | **1** |
| Education Bureau | | | 1 | 0 | 0 | **1** |
| Leisure & Cultural Services Department | | | 0 | 1 | 0 | **1** |
| **Others** | | |  |  |  |  |
| Private Sector | | | 74 | 58 | 4 | **136** |
| Public Bodies\* | | | 5 | 2 | 0 | **7** |
| Private Individuals (concerning Government Bureaux/Departments)\*\* | | | 4 | 0 | 0 | **4** |
| Private Individuals (concerning Public Bodies)\*\* | | | 1 | 0 | 1 | **2** |
| **Total** | | | **88** | **61** | **5** | **154** |
| 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 2020 (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** | |
| **Soliciting/Accepting** | | | | | | | | |
| s.3 Cap 201 # | | | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | **2** | |
| s.4(2) Cap 201 | | | 1 | 0 | 4 | 0 | **5** | |
| s.9(1) Cap 201 | | | 0 | 0 | 0 | 21 | **21** | |
| **Offering** | | | | | | | | |
| s.4(1) Cap 201 | | | 0 | 4 | 1 | 0 | **5** | |
| s.8(2) Cap 201 | | | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | **1** | |
| s.9(2) Cap 201 | | | 0 | 0 | 0 | 15 | **15** | |
| **Agent using document to deceive principal** | | | | | | | | |
| s.9(3) Cap 201 | | | 0 | 0 | 0 | 4 | **4** | |
| **Disclosing identity of persons being investigated** | | | | | | | | |
| s.30 Cap 201 | | | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | **2** | |
| **Offences connected with or facilitated by corruption** | | | | | | | | |
| s.10(2)(a) Cap 204 ## @ | | | 1 | 1 | 1 | 8 | **11** | |
| s.10(5) Cap 204  @ | | | 1 | 0 | 0 | 86 | **87** | |
| **Election offences** | | | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | **1** | |
| **Total** | | | **5** | **6** | **7** | **136** | **154** | |
| 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 2020 (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 | | | 1 | 0 | 0 | 76 | **77** |
| Theft | | | 0 | 0 | 0 | 10 | **10** |
| **Crimes Ordinance** | | | | | | | |
| Access to computer with criminal or dishonest intent | | | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | **1** |
| Criminal intimidation | | | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | **1** |
| Copying / Using a false instrument | | | 0 | 0 | 0 | 4 | **4** |
| Forgery | | | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | **2** |
| **Gambling Ordinance** | | | | | | | |
| Bookmaking | | | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | **1** |
| **Organized and Serious Crimes Ordinance** | | | | | | | |
| Dealing with property known or believed to represent proceeds of indictable offence | | | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | **1** |
| **Misconduct in Public Office** | | | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | **1** |
| **Total** | | | **2** | **1** | **1** | **94** | **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 2020 1** |

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Government Bureaux/Departments or Public Bodies** | | | **No. of Referrals** | |
|
| **Government Bureaux/Departments** | | |  | |
| Hong Kong Police Force | | | 120 | |
| Home Affairs Department | | | 9 | |
| Inland Revenue Department | | | 9 | |
| Food and Environmental Hygiene Department | | | 8 | |
| Social Welfare Department | | | 8 | |
| Customs and Excise Department | | | 6 | |
| Education Bureau | | | 6 | |
| Housing Department | | | 6 | |
| Immigration Department | | | 6 | |
| Lands Department | | | 6 | |
| Buildings Department | | | 5 | |
| Fire Services Department | | | 5 | |
| Other Government Departments | | | 22 | |
| ***Sub-total*** | | | **216** | |
| **Public Bodies** | | |  | |
| Securities and Futures Commission | | | 8 | |
| Estate Agents Authority | | | 4 | |
| Other Public Bodies | | | 11 | |
| ***Sub-total*** | | | **23** | |
| **Total** | | | **239** | |
| 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  Islands  Southern District |
| **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) | | Eastern District  Wan Chai |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **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  Sai Kung  Wong Tai Sin |
| **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  Sham Shui Po  Yau Tsim Mong |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **New Territories** | **Districts** |
|  |  |
| **ICAC Regional Office**  **- New Territories South West**  Shop B1, G/F, Tsuen Kam Centre  300 - 350 Castle Peak Road – Tsuen Wan  Tsuen Wan   |  |  | | --- | --- | | Tel : | 2493 7733 (Enquiry & Report) | |  | 2899 3843 (Liaison) | | Fax : | 2413 8490 (Liaison) | | Kwai Tsing  Tsuen Wan |
| **ICAC Regional Office**  **- New Territories North West**  G/F, Fu Hing Building  230 Castle Peak Road – Yuen Long  Yuen Long   |  |  | | --- | --- | | Tel : | 2459 0459 (Enquiry & Report) | |  | 2899 3880 (Liaison) | | Fax : | 2450 7925 (Liaison) | | Tuen Mun  Yuen Long |
| **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 : | 2604 7116 (Liaison) | | North District  Sha Tin  Tai Po |

**Reports of**

**ICAC Advisory Committees**

**2020**

**Advisory Committee on Corruption**

**ANNUAL REPORT 2020**

**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 2020 are at **Annexes** **A** and **B** respectively. At the end of 2020, Mrs Carrie YAU TSANG Ka-lai retired from the ACOC, whilst a new member, Ms AU King-chi joined the ACOC in 2021.

**WORK OF THE COMMITTEE**

Despite the tremendous impact of coronavirus pandemic in 2020, the ICAC remained relentless and committed to battling corruption through law enforcement, corruption prevention and community education. Walking through the journey with the ICAC, the ACOC continued to ensure that our graft fighters keep a tight rein on corruption. 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.

***Synergy of the Three-Pronged Approach***

The ACOC noted that Hong Kong continued to be a clean city with very low level of corruption in 2020. According to the *ICAC Annual Survey 2020*, almost all respondents (98.4%) had not come across corruption personally in the past 12 months.

In 2020, the ICAC received 1 924 non-election related corruption complaints, representing a decrease of 16% as compared to 2019. The drop was across the public and private sectors.

The public sector remained clean. Despite a decline of 3% in corruption complaints concerning the public sector, the ICAC continued to take robust enforcement actions, maintained its endeavours to build in adequate corruption prevention safeguards in the policies and initiatives of the Government (e.g. enhancing the corruption prevention capabilities of the site supervision system for public works projects, developing an integrity management system for adoption by public works contractors, etc.), and provided integrity training to civil servants at all levels and briefings for all Principal Officials and officials appointed under the Political Appointment System.

2020 saw a relatively prominent drop of 23% in private sector complaints, mainly due to the significant decrease registered in the Finance and Insurance subsector which was down by 39% when compared with 2019. To sustain a level playing field in the business environment, the ICAC continued to deploy the integrated approach of busting corruption relentlessly, and enhancing system prevention and ethical business practices in the private sector. The ACOC endorsed the ICAC’s efforts in implementing a wide range of prevention and education initiatives, including launching an Ethics Promotion Campaign and developing a Corruption Prevention Guide for the insurance industry, strengthening the initial public offering procedures of the Hong Kong Exchanges and Clearing Limited and the Securities and Futures Commission, and enhancing the corruption prevention capabilities of listed companies.

The ICAC respectively received 850 and 18 election complaints in respect of the 2019 District Council Election and the Legislative Council Election originally scheduled for 2020. The ACOC noted and supported the ICAC to continue collaborating closely with the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau, the Electoral Affairs Commission, Registration and Electoral Office and the Police Force to uphold the integrity of the public elections in 2021 and launch a new round of clean election campaign.

The ACOC appreciated the ICAC’s sustained efforts in nurturing the younger generation with the value of integrity through the “Reading for Integrity” Project, the multi-media “Youth-for-Youth” Co-creation Project, iTeen Leadership Programme, ICAC Ambassadors Programme, interactive drama performance, and internship programmes.

***Effectively Upholding Probity Culture***

Integrity is a core value of Hong Kong. The ACOC was pleased to note that the ICAC’s anti-corruption efforts and Hong Kong’s probity environment continued to be recognised locally and internationally. The ICAC enjoyed unfailing public trust and support, with 70% of complainants identified themselves when reporting corruption in 2020 and 93.2% of respondents in the *ICAC Annual Survey 2020* considered ICAC deserving their support. Hong Kong’s global ranking in the *Corruption Perceptions Index* released by the Transparency International remained high at the 11th place in 2020 which is five places above that in 2019 and the highest since the Index was launched in 1995.

***Closer Ties to Fight Graft***

The ACOC endorsed ICAC’s sustained efforts in enhancing its global network and strengthening collaboration with anti-corruption agencies of different jurisdictions. The ICAC was also committed to explain to the international community, including ranking institutions, on Hong Kong’s strategies and progress in anti-corruption work and the city’s strong rule of law.

Although worldwide travel restrictions in 2020 had inevitably prevented face-to-face exchanges with overseas anti-corruption agencies and international institutions, the ICAC maintained close contacts with overseas agencies via online platform, and conducted online meetings and capacity building programmes for graft fighters of various countries.

To take forward the anti-corruption work in the Greater Bay Area, the ICAC maintained ongoing liaison with the National Commission of Supervision, the Guangdong Provincial Commission of Supervision and the Commission Against Corruption of Macao with a view to arranging the second tripartite meeting in the first quarter of 2021.

***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 2021-22, and also scrutinised the *ICAC Annual Report 2020* before it was submitted to you.

**MEDIA BRIEFING**

On 1 February 2021, together with the Chairmen of the other three ICAC advisory committees, I conducted a briefing session with the media on our work in 2020. 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 2020)**

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 2020)**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 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**

**ANNUAL REPORT 2020**

**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 2020, Mr John CHAN Chong-kun, Mr CHEW Fook-aun, Mr Hans Michael JEBSEN and Prof Paul LAM Kwan-sing retired from the Committee after six years of service and Mr Michael HO Mun-ka retired from the Committee after two years of service. Five new members, Prof David HUI Shu-cheong, Mr Johnson KONG Chi-how, Mr Richard Kendall LANCASTER, Prof LI Pang-kwong and Ms Melissa Kaye PANG joined the Committee in 2021.

**WORK OF THE COMMITTEE**

The Committee was scheduled to meet on eight occasions during 2020 to review reports prepared by the Operations Department of the ICAC. Due to the coronavirus pandemic, two Main meetings in 2020 were cancelled in line with prevailing measures to reduce social contacts. At each meeting that was convened, the Committee received reports on current major investigations and their updates as well as cases prosecuted at court. Cases that had been investigated by the ICAC for over 12 months and reports on persons who had been on ICAC bail for over six months were also presented to the Committee. 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 40 completed major investigations. These included cases that resulted in no prosecution and those which had 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 1 741 completed minor investigations and 492 non-pursuable complaints of corruption. Findings of the Subcommittee were reported to the Main Committee.

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 the *Annual Report on Corruption and Malpractice in the Government 2019*, an information paper which identified areas susceptible to corruption and malpractices in the Government.

**GENERAL CORRUPTION SCENE**

Excluding election complaints[[4]](#footnote-4), a total of 1 924 corruption complaints were received in 2020, representing a decrease of 16 per cent when compared to 2 297 complaints received in 2019. The number of pursuable complaints also decreased by 16 per cent from 1 739 to 1 454. The drop of corruption complaints last year was attributed to the decrease in the number of complaints concerning the private sector, which was likely due to the substantial drop in economic activities during the pandemic, as well as the public’s preoccupation with various other political, social and economic issues. Overall, 59% of the corruption complaints concerned the private sector, while 33% related to Government departments and 8% involved public bodies.

Despite the intermittent interruptions caused by the pandemic, the Committee appreciated that the ICAC had continued to pursue each and every complaint and handle all investigations vigilantly. In 2020, excluding election cases, there was an increase of 14% (i.e. from 134 to 153) in the number of persons prosecuted, and the case conviction rate was maintained at a high level of 87%. In addition, 28 persons were formally cautioned for minor breaches of offences, representing an increase of 40% from 20 persons in 2019.

The Committee notes that public support remains strong with 70 per cent of the complainants identifying themselves when reporting corruption.

**CORRUPTION IN THE GOVERNMENT SECTOR**

In 2020, complaints concerning staff of Government bureaux/departments (B/Ds) recorded a slight drop of three per cent from 647 to 629, with the number of pursuable complaints decreasing slightly by one per cent from 401 to 398 when compared to 2019.

The public expects the highest standard of accountability and integrity from public servants, and the ORC notes that the corruption situation in the Government remains stable and that the civil service remains clean and honest. Despite increased politicisation and polarisation in the Hong Kong society, the Committee is satisfied that the Operations Department had investigated all reports of corruption independently and sought legal advice in a timely manner from the Department of Justice, in accordance with the law and irrespective of the background, status, and position of the persons involved.

The Committee is also pleased to note that B/Ds remain supportive of ICAC’s enforcement work. In 2020, excluding election complaints, a total of 133 complaints were referred to the ICAC for action by various B/Ds. Of these 133 complaints, 52 were referred by the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department, 12 by the Hong Kong Police Force, 10 by the Correctional Services Department, 7 by the Transport and Housing Bureau, and the remainder by other B/Ds.

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

In 2020, as endorsed by the Committee, 45 cases involving 107 government servants were referred to the relevant bureaux/departments for consideration of disciplinary and/or administrative action, compared to 57 cases involving 91 government servants in 2019. Such referrals mainly concerned civil servants engaging in malpractice over attendance/overtime, abusing their authority, obtaining unauthorised loans or neglecting their duty.

**CORRUPTION CONCERNING PUBLIC BODIES**

In 2020, corruption complaints relating to public bodies dropped by five per cent (from 170 to 161) and pursuable complaints by 15 per cent (from 124 to 106) when compared to 2019. The Hospital Authority (34), District Council (26) and MTR Corporation Limited (13) together accounted for over 45 per cent of the total complaints in this sector.

**CORRUPTION IN THE PRIVATE SECTOR**

In 2020, complaints concerning the private sector dropped by 23 per cent from 1 480 to 1 134. Pursuable complaints also fell by 22 per cent from 1 214 to 950. The decrease was recorded in practically all subsectors concerning the private sector, including the top three subsectors for complaints, which are building management (from 505 to 456), construction industry (from 140 to 109), and finance & insurance (from 163 to 100).

Although the building management subsector still attracted the most complaints, the downward trend that has been recorded since 2017 is continuing, with a drop of 10 per cent when compared with 2019. The Committee supports the Operations Department to continue to adopt its enforcement strategy, combining the traditional approach of investigation together with early intervention action in appropriate cases to alert flat owners concerned to the possible risks in the award of contracts.

The Committee observes that complaints in relation to the finance and insurance subsector recorded a significant decrease of 39 per cent, when compared with 2019. Notwithstanding this, the Committee is confident that the ICAC will remain vigilant and guard against possible corruption risks at times of economic downturn. The Committee also believes that the ICAC will continue to enhance its professionalism and partner with financial regulators in order to combat corruption and uphold governance in the financial sector, so that Hong Kong’s status as an international financial centre will be maintained.

**ELECTIONS**

The District Council Election was held in November 2019 amidst a backdrop of social unrest that was unprecedented in Hong Kong. Up to the end of 2020, the ICAC received 850 election complaints in respect of the 2019 District Council Election, of which 817 were pursuable. Separately, 18 election complaints, of which 17 were pursuable, were registered in respect of the Legislative Council Election originally scheduled for 6 September 2020.

The year also saw one person prosecuted and convicted of an offence of failing to lodge an election return, while two and 17 persons were respectively formally cautioned and warned for minor breaches of electoral offences.

Although the Government had postponed the 2020 Legislative Council Election, the Committee notes that the ICAC will continue to maintain dialogue and partnership with other stakeholders in order to ensure the election is fair and clean.

**CONCLUSION**

The coronavirus outbreak in 2020 has brought tremendous challenges to the whole of Hong Kong society. In these difficult times, officers of the Operations Department have demonstrated to the Committee that they remain resolute in the face of the challenge and will continue to pursue their anti-graft mission without fear or favour. Going forward, the Committee is confident that the ICAC is fully committed to the fight against corruption, and will continue to help uphold the rule of law in Hong Kong.

**APPRECIATION**

Lastly, I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to all Committee members for their dedication and contributions during the year in reviewing each and every case brought before them diligently, objectively and impartially. The Committee also appreciates and supports 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 2020)**

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 2020)**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 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 |  |
| Dr Aron Hari HARILELA, BBS, JP |  |
| Mr Michael HO Mun-ka |  |
| Mr Hans Michael JEBSEN, BBS |  |
| Prof Paul LAM Kwan-sing, SBS, JP |  |
| Mr Paul LAM Ting-kwok, SC, JP |  |
| 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 2020**

**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 Albert SU Yau-on has succeeded Ms Yvonne YEUNG Kin-ha 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 the year, the CPAC met on three occasions and, due to the pandemic situation, discussed via circulation of papers on another two occasions, and considered 65 assignment reports presented by CPD. These assignment reports, involving mostly the work of government bureaux/departments (B/Ds) and public bodies 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 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 B/Ds and public bodies on 434 occasions[[5]](#footnote-5)\*, mainly in their formulation/review of legislation, 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 407 occasions\*, with all requests for services duly responded to within two working days. In addition, the Corruption Prevention Advisory Service handled 744 public enquiries through its hotline service. CPD also conducted a total of 69 corruption prevention seminars for B/Ds, public bodies and private organisations (including non-governmental organisations and consultants/contractors of public works, etc.), reaching an audience totalling over 5 100 persons.

**HIGHLIGHT OF WORK**

During the year, CPD continued to assist B/Ds and public bodies in plugging corruption loopholes in their systems or procedures. The CPAC is pleased to note in particular the proactive efforts displayed by CPD to provide diversified services and early input to the Government and public bodies on important new or enhanced initiatives and public services, with an emphasis on the strategy of prevention at source and the adoption of a partnership approach. The CPAC supports CPD’s concurrent prevention strategy which can help ensure the incorporation of the necessary integrity management and corruption prevention measures at the outset. CPD has also continued to 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. The highlight of CPD’s work is set out below.

***Early Input to Government’s New Initiatives***

The Government has launched a number of new initiatives in recent years such as the land sharing pilot scheme, initiatives on innovation and technology, acquisition of properties for social welfare facilities and a funding scheme to support transitional housing projects by non-governmental organisations to meet the needs of the society. For all these different initiatives and projects, CPD has provided early input to the B/Ds and public bodies concerned during their design/preparation stage to facilitate their effective implementation with system integrity, and where necessary, followed up with detailed reviews of their actual implementation to ensure that any further possible loopholes subsequently surfaced could be duly plugged. The CPAC is pleased to note this comprehensive approach with early input to facilitate a robust and successful implementation.

***Proactive Strategies to Meet New Challenges***

CPD continued to focus on areas of public administration important to people’s livelihood or safety, issues of public interest or concern, and programmes and projects involving substantial amount of public money, which covered such areas as public works, public procurement, public health, funding schemes, law enforcement and regulatory functions. For instance, the integrity of construction projects has been an area of public concern, mainly due to a number of cases involving malpractice in some works projects. The CPAC is pleased to note CPD’s quick responses to address those concerned areas as well as its continuous efforts in this industry. Through a series of diversified and yet targeted corruption prevention work (e.g. carrying out detailed studies, compiling the *Corruption Prevention Guide on Works Supervision*, and developing and promulgating an integrity management system for public works contractors), CPD not only strived to strengthen the system integrity for public works projects, but also focused on capacity building for contractors to enhance their corruption prevention awareness.

***Embracing Technology to Enhance Corruption Prevention***

Over the years, CPD is keen to explore and promote new methods, particularly the adoption of technology, in enhancing governance and control for the prevention of corruption in public administration and services. During the year, CPD advised on the digitisation of works supervision, and made recommendations in various assignment studies for different B/Ds concerning wide-ranging operations, including the use of information technology in strengthening supervision and monitoring work, automating and streamlining administrative processes, enhancing auditing capability, etc. The CPAC strongly supports CPD’s work in this regard.

**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.

CPD will continue to assist the Government in strengthening procedural controls against corrupt and illegal practices in the electoral processes for the upcoming Legislative Council Election as well as other public elections in 2021-22, such as assisting in strengthening controls on membership administration of Specified Bodies against vote-rigging in functional constituency elections.

In partnership with the Property Management Services Authority, CPD has planned a series of initiatives regarding the new licensing regime for property management companies and practitioners, with a view to building in corruption resistant measures at the outset. Capacity building sessions will also be organised and corruption prevention resources will be developed for the practitioners to enhance their awareness and capability in corruption prevention.

The insurance industry is an important pillar of the financial industry. Following the launch of the *Corruption Prevention Guide for Insurance Companies* in 2020, a series of corruption prevention work have been planned to assist the industry to better utilise *the Guide*, such as publicity events, thematic talks/training for insurance companies, as well as offer of tailored corruption prevention services to individual insurance companies.

Over the years, CPD has been maintaining a user-friendly Corruption Prevention Advisory Service Web Portal to provide a platform for easy access to a wide array of corruption prevention resource materials and services. CPD will continue to leverage on it to help the business sector prevent corruption by disseminating more trade/industry-specific corruption prevention materials, case studies and best practice 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 important in facilitating the successful implementation of the latter’s public and business objectives. The CPAC affirms the work done by CPD in the past year, in particular its proactive and early corruption prevention input strategies.

**APPRECIATION**

I would like to take this opportunity to express my appreciation to members of the CPAC for their unreserved commitment and staunch support over the years. 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 2020)**

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 2020)**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 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, BBS, MH, JP |  |
| Mr Albert SU Yau-on, MH, JP |  |
| Mr Winson WOO Lap-kee |  |
| Mr Alan YAU Hoi-ngan |  |
| 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 2020**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| *Client* |  | *Subject Area* |
| 1. **Government Bureaux/Departments** | | |
| Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau & Registration and Electoral Office |  | Corruption Prevention Work on Legislative Council Election |
| Development Bureau |  | Site Supervision of Consultant-Managed Public Works Projects |
|  |  | Works Supervision System for Public Works Contractors |
| Education Bureau |  | Administration of the Community-based Project |
| Architectural Services Department |  | Control of Building Materials in Capital Works Contracts |
|  |  | Letting and Administration of Design and Construct Minor Works Term Contracts |
| Auxiliary Medical Service |  | Procurement of Goods and Services |
| Buildings Department |  | Control of Repair Works for Category II Buildings under Operation Building Bright 2.0 |
|  |  | Prioritisation and Inspection of Category II Buildings under the Operation Building Bright 2.0 |
| Civil Engineering and Development Department |  | Outsourcing of Testing Services for Public Works Projects |
| Create Hong Kong |  | The Work of the Special Effects Licensing Unit |
| Department of Health |  | Administration of Accredited Registers Scheme for Healthcare Professions |
|  |  | Procurement of Laboratory Supplies |
| Drainage Services Department |  | Direct Procurement of Stores and General Services |
| Electrical and Mechanical Services Department |  | Outsourcing of Electrical and Mechanical Engineering Works |
|  |  | Staff Posting, Attendance and Overtime Management |
| Environmental Protection Department |  | Emissions Control for Petrol and LPG Vehicles |
| Fire Services Department |  | Abatement of Fire Hazards in Commercial Buildings |
|  |  | Procurement of Fire Appliances and Specialist Equipment |
| Food and Environmental Hygiene Department |  | Management of Hawker Control Teams |
| Government Flying Service |  | Procurement of Aircraft-related Equipment and Services |
| Government Laboratory |  | Examination of Questioned Documents |
| Highways Department |  | Letting and Administration of Consultant-managed Capital Works Contracts Adopting New Engineering Contract |
|  |  | Letting and Administration of Management and Maintenance Contracts for High Speed Roads |
| Housing Department |  | Application and Allocation of Public Rental Housing Flats |
|  |  | Control of Building Services Works in New Works Projects |
| Innovation and Technology Commission |  | Administration of the Enterprise Support Scheme |
| Invest Hong Kong |  | Administration of Marketing and Promotional Events |
| Labour Department |  | Enforcement of Occupational Safety Legislations on Construction Sites |
| Leisure and Cultural Services Department |  | Inspection and Maintenance of Trees |
|  |  | Letting and Administration of Cleansing Contracts |
|  |  | Licensing and Control of Places of Amusement |
| Marine Department |  | Management of Public Cargo Working Areas |
| Rating and Valuation Department |  | Valuation of Altered Properties and Collection of Related Rates and Government Rent |
| Social Welfare Department |  | Administration of Visiting Medical Practitioner Service for Residential Care Homes |
|  |  | Processing of Enhanced Bought Place Scheme Applications |
| Trade and Industry Department |  | Administration of SME Funding Schemes |
| Transport Department |  | Management, Operation and Maintenance of Government Carparks |
| Working Family and Student Financial Assistance Agency |  | Administration of Means-tested Financial Assistance Schemes for Post-secondary and Tertiary Students |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 1. **Scheduled Public Bodies** | | |
| Airport Authority Hong Kong |  | Letting and Administration of Building Maintenance Contracts |
| BEAM Society Limited |  | Procurement Procedures |
| CLP Power Hong Kong Limited |  | Management of Capital Works Projects |
| Construction Industry Council |  | Administration of Construction Innovation and Technology Fund |
| Hong Kong Academy of Medicine |  | Letting and Administration of Service Contracts |
| Hong Kong Arts Development Council |  | Training for Arts Administrators |
| Hong Kong Cyberport Management Company Limited |  | Leasing Procedures |
| Hong Kong Exchanges and Clearing Limited (HKEX) |  | Anti-Corruption Policies and Guidance for HKEX and Listed Companies |
|  |  | Initial Public Offering Procedures |
| Hong Kong Green Building Council |  | Administration of Marketing and Promotional Events |
| Hong Kong Science and Technology Parks Corporation |  | Implementation of Revised Industrial Estate Programme |
| Hong Kong Trade Development Council |  | Administration of the Operation Agreements for the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre |
| Hong Kong Tramways Limited |  | Letting and Administration of Advertising Company Contracts |
| Hospital Authority |  | Collection and Waiver of Hospital Fees |
| New World First Bus Services Limited |  | Procurement of Buses and Bus-related Items |
| Securities and Futures Commission |  | Regulation of Sponsors |
| The Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts |  | Engagement of Part-time and Temporary Staff |
| The Hongkong Electric Company Limited |  | Installation and Reading of Electricity Meters |
| Urban Renewal Authority |  | Tendering, Sale and Operation of Joint Venture Property Development Projects |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 1. **Others** | | |
| Construction Industry |  | Corruption Prevention Guide on Works Supervision |
| Education Sector |  | Corruption Prevention Toolkit on Kindergartens' Operations |
| Insurance Sector |  | Corruption Prevention Guide for Insurance Companies |
| International Social Service  (Hong Kong Branch) |  | Administration of Assistance Scheme for Non-refoulement Claimants |
| Non-disciplined Enforcement Agencies |  | Corruption Prevention Guide on Regulatory Enforcement for Non-disciplined Enforcement Agencies |
| Pneumoconiosis Compensation Fund Board |  | Procurement Procedures |
| Private Sector |  | Corporate Policy on Reporting of Corruption |

**Citizens Advisory Committee on Community Relations**

**ANNUAL REPORT 2020**

**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 conducted three meetings 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 2020, advised on specific areas of CRD’s work and reported their deliberations to the CACCR for endorsement.

In the face of unprecedented challenges brought by the outbreak of coronavirus disease 2019, the Committee was pleased to witness that the CRD made its best endeavours to maintain its momentum and actively adjusted its preventive education strategies under the “Ethics for All” approach to keep up its education and publicity efforts throughout the year. In spite of the socio-economic downturn caused by the pandemic, the public tolerance of corruption remained low and the society firmly supported the anti-corruption cause. As reflected in the 2020 ICAC Annual Survey, the public remained highly intolerant of corruption. A vast 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 2020, I would like to highlight a number of preventive education and publicity initiatives of the CRD that are worth attention.

***Government and Public Sector Integrity***

The Committee highly commended CRD’s continuous hard work to uphold the integrity culture among government and public officers of all ranks. With persistent efforts, the CRD had provided briefings/information on anti-corruption laws toall incumbent Principal Officials and Political Appointees of the current government cabinet and enlisted their support for integrity management. In collaboration with the Civil Service Bureau, the CRD also arranged briefings to directorate and senior government officers to update them on the latest anti-corruption issues. Also, the CRD rolled out the *Integrity Management e-learning Platform for Civil Servants*, a new all-in-one platform to enhance civil servants’ understanding and alertness to corruption, conflict of interest and integrity issues. The Committee was glad to learn that the CRD had encouraged all government bureaux/departments to incorporate the *e-learning Platform* into their integrity training cycles or programmes.

In addition, the CRD organised visits to the ICAC for District Councillors of the new term to remind them of their role as public servants and explain relevant anti-corruption legislations. Officers of CRD’s Regional Offices also introduced its work plan in District Council meetings and visited District Councillors to establish networks at district level.

***Business Ethics Promotion***

The Committee was regularly updated by the CRD on its efforts to remind business practitioners to remain vigilant against corruption and fraud so as to stay competitive in the midst of financial pressure; as well as its close collaboration with the business sector to promulgate ethical business practices.

Established under the auspices of the CRD in 1995, the Hong Kong Business Ethics Development Centre commemorated its Silver Jubilee in 2020. The Committee congratulated the Centre for its staunch partnership with 10 major chambers of commerce and a wide range of leading professional institutions in Hong Kong to promote business and professional ethics in the past 25 years. An example to highlight was the Centre’s collaboration with the Insurance Authority and 12 industry bodies to launch the “Integrity for Success” Ethics Promotion Campaign for the Insurance Industry to strengthen integrity and professional ethics amongst insurance practitioners through an array of preventive education resources and tailor-made capacity building consultancy services.

***Youth Education***

Educating young people about the importance of upholding integrity has always been the priority of the Committee and the CRD’s anti-corruption work. Although integrity promotion activities for youngsters were inevitably affected due to suspension of campus activities in 2020, the CRD flexibly adopted a mixture of virtual and face-to-face activities to maximise the impact. A new attempt was the “Reading for Integrity” Project under which the Department joined hands with parenting experts and local illustrators to produce four picture books with different moral themes. A series of online story-telling activities and training workshops and a “Reading Gala” were organised to promote and facilitate parents and educators to use the picture books during the home schooling time.

The ICAC Ambassador Programme for tertiary institutions, Voluntary Summer Helper scheme and the i-Teen Leadership Programme in the 2019/20 academic year were completed with fruitful outcomes. ICAC Ambassadors displayed their creativity in designing and implementing online and offline activities to spread probity messages to their peers. Riding on the positive feedback on its Voluntary Summer Helper scheme, the CRD extended its internship programme to provide opportunities for tertiary students to take part in anti-corruption projects in the winter break. In regard to the fluctuating epidemic situation, the Committee was glad to note that the CRD offered live show, livestreaming and recorded performance of interactive drama to suit the needs and preference of different secondary schools.

***Community Engagement 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. In 2020, the CRD continued to ride on the momentum of the “All for Integrity” territory-wide programme to organise a series of publicity initiatives, including publication of a booklet promoting landmarks related to the history and significant cases of ICAC, publicity campaigns on public transport and social media posts. The CRD also engaged ICAC Club Youth Chapter members to design the routes of Anti-Corruption Walks in 18 districts, which featured visit spots pertaining to the milestones of anti-corruption work in Hong Kong. An online version containing seven routes was debuted to disseminate probity messages to members of the public and reiterate the importance of the rule of law and law-abidingness. Moreover, it has been CRD’s continued efforts to engage district organisations to arrange activities of all kinds to spread probity messages in the society. It was encouraging to note that through a spate of community engagement activities, around 570 000 people were reached in 2020.

While certain activities were affected due to the pandemic, the CRD further stepped up internet and social media publicity to ensure anti-corruption messages were disseminated to the citizens of Hong Kong without interruption. The Committee was delighted to note that the number of visits to ICAC’s online platforms hit a record high of over 6.2 million in 2020. The “All for Integrity” Facebook Fanpage, which had accumulated over 25 000 page “likes”, continued to adopt an interactive and light-hearted approach to engage the public to support the anti-corruption cause and maintain vigilance against corruption risks in their daily life. With the aim of designing online programmes which were popular among the younger generation, the CRD invited ICAC Ambassadors, ICAC Club Youth Chapter members and young CACCR members to contribute innovative ideas and take part in social media programmes under the “Multimedia Youth-for-Youth Co-creation Project”, comprising an infotainment programme introducing anti-corruption laws, social experiments on integrity and personal ethics; and docu-interviews with inspiring public figures.

***Clean Elections***

The Committee acknowledged CRD’s multi-faceted education and publicity strategy to promote a clean election culture in Hong Kong. A series of initiatives, ranging from briefings and reference materials for candidates, electors and relevant stakeholders, “Flash Roadshows”, multi-media publicity, maintenance of clean election website and hotline, etc. were rolled out for 2020 Legislative Council General Election. Noting that some of these initiatives were subsequently cancelled due to the pandemic and postponement of 2020 Legislative Council General Election, the CRD would suitably re-launch the education and publicity programme for upcoming public elections in 2021 and 2022.

***Corruption Prevention and Education in Building Management***

The Committee endorsed CRD’s sustained efforts to address the public concern on enhancing integrity in the building management sector. In response to the commencement of the licensing regime of the property management industry, the CRD collaborated with the Property Management Services Authority to tailor-make a training package for tertiary education institutions running specified courses for property management practitioners. A train-the-trainers session was conducted to facilitate the course instructors’ use of the package to explain the anti-corruption laws.

**SUBCOMMITTEES**

During the year, the Media Publicity and Community Research Subcommittee offered valuable opinions to the CRD on its strategy to maximise the use of the mass and new media to promote anti-corruption messages, such as the “Multimedia Youth-for-Youth Co-creation Project” and the revamp of *iTeen Camp thematic website*. Moreover, the Subcommittee contributed expert advice on conduct of the ICAC Annual Survey to gauge public attitudes towards corruption; as well as the Focus Group Study on Youth Attitude towards Probity and Integrity.

The Preventive Education and Public Engagement Subcommittee provided insightful contribution to the CRD on its preventive education work for different segments of the community, including the integrity promotion campaigns for public and business sectors and the way-forward of ICAC Club Youth Chapter.

**APPRECIATION**

I wish to extend my sincere gratitude to members of the CACCR and its Subcommittees for their contributions and full support. I would also like to thank staff members of the CRD who demonstrated their professionalism and commitment to sustain the probity culture in Hong Kong in the past unusual year.

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 2020)**

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 2020)**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 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, JP |  |
| 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, MH |  |
| Dr 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  Dr Esther CHO Yin-nei  Ms Vivian IP |  |
| Mr KWONG Ka-shi |  |
| Ms Sonia LAM Pik-chu, MH |  |
| Ms Eleanor LI Po-yee |  |
| Mr Anthony SO Chun-hin |  |
| Mr James CHENG Lap-yan | (ex officio) |
| Dr Andy TAM Ka-keung | (ex officio) |

1. Election complaints refer to complaints alleging breaches of the ECICO. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Figures revised to take account of the updating of reclassified cases. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. There were eight non-ECICO corruption complaints related to various public elections of which five concerned the 2019 District Council Election. These have been included in the statistics on corruption complaints provided in Figure 4-1. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. Election complaints refer to complaints alleging breaches of the Elections (Corrupt and Illegal Conduct) Ordinance [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. \* Statistics exclude the numbers of corruption prevention seminars conducted. [↑](#footnote-ref-5)