**2022 Annual Report**

**Independent Commission Against Corruption**

**Hong Kong Special Administrative Region**

**of the People’s Republic of China**



**2022 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.

**Contents**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Chapter | |  |
|  | |  |
| **1** | **Introduction** |  |
|  | Constitution |  |
|  | Organisation |  |
|  | Advisory Committees |  |
|  | Responsibilities of the Commissioner |  |
|  |  |  |
| **2** | **Commissioner’s Review** |  |
|  | Effective Law Enforcement, Corruption Prevention and Education |  |
|  | Strengthening Publicity for Public Support |  |
|  | Enhancing Mainland and International Cooperation for a Clean Society |  |
|  | Breakthroughs and Innovations for Scaling New heights |  |
|  |  |  |
| **3** | **International Cooperation and Corporate Services Department** |  |
|  | Duties |  |
|  | Structure |  |
|  | Strategies |  |
|  | International Cooperation |  |
|  | International Capacity Building Training and Consultancy Service  International Publicity  Mainland Liaison and Anti-Corruption Collaboration in the Greater Bay Area  Anti-Corruption Research and Analysis  International Association of Anti-Corruption Authorities  Visitors outside Hong Kong |  |
|  | Corporate Services |  |
|  | Finance Matters |  |
|  | Human Resource Management |  |
|  | Training and Development |  |
|  | Staff Relations and Welfare |  |
|  | Occupational Safety and Health |  |
|  | Green Management |  |
|  | Awards and Commendations |  |
|  |  |  |
| **4** | **Operations Department** |  |
|  | Statutory Duties |  |
|  | Structure |  |
|  | Powers |  |
|  | Operations Review Committee |  |
|  | Prosecution |  |
|  | Sources of Corruption Cases |  |
|  | Statistics on Corruption Complaints |  |
|  | Investigations and Prosecutions |  |
|  | Disciplinary and/or Administrative Action Against Government Servants |  |
|  | Report Centre and Detention Centre |  |
|  | Quick Response Team |  |
|  | Forensic Accounting |  |
|  | Proceeds of Crime |  |
|  | Witness Protection |  |
|  | Operational Liaison |  |
|  | International and Mainland Liaison and Mutual Assistance |  |
|  | Information Technology |  |
|  | Staff Discipline |  |
|  | Training and Development |  |
|  |  |  |
| **5** | **Corruption Prevention Department** |  |
|  | Statutory Duties |  |
|  | Strategies |  |
|  | Structure |  |
|  | Review of Work |  |
|  | Proactive and Early Input to Government’s New Initiatives |  |
|  | Issues of Public Concern |  |
|  | Corruption Prevention Work in Private Sector |  |
|  | Embracing Technology to Enhance Corruption Prevention |  |
|  |  |  |
| **6** | **Community Relations Department** |  |
|  | Statutory Duties |  |
|  | Strategies |  |
|  | Structure |  |
|  | Public Sector |  |
|  | Business Sector |  |
|  | Youth and Moral Education |  |
|  | District Organisations |  |
|  | ICAC Club |  |
|  | Building Management |  |
|  | Clean Elections |  |
|  | Media Publicity |  |
|  | Communications and Media Relations |  |
|  | ICAC Annual Survey |  |
|  |  |  |
| **Appendices** | |  |

7

**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 four functional departments - Operations, Corruption Prevention, Community Relations and International Cooperation and Corporate Services. Its organisation is shown at Appendix 1.

**ADVISORY COMMITTEES**

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

**RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE COMMISSIONER**

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

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

**Chapter 2 Commissioner’s Review**

I am deeply honored for the trust the Central People’s Government and the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) Government have placed in me for assuming the important post as the Commissioner of the Independent Commission Against Corruption (ICAC). I hereby present my first ICAC Annual Report to the Chief Executive. 2022 marks the year for celebrating the 25th anniversary of Hong Kong’s return to the motherland and the establishment of the new-term Government of HKSAR. President Xi Jinping laid down his expectation for the HKSAR Government to further improve its governance and safeguard harmony and stability. President Xi also gave directive in the 20th National Congress of the Communist Party of China that we should fight against corruption with zero tolerance in order to create a probity environment that people do not dare to, are unable to and have no desire to commit corruption. The ICAC will surely carry out its duties in accordance with the policies and development of our country with a view to safeguarding Hong Kong as a world-acclaimed clean city. We shall provide our solid support by upholding our integrity and rule of law so as to facilitate Hong Kong’s economic development and advancement from stability to prosperity.

The fifth wave of the coronavirus pandemic peaked in early 2022. ICAC officers care about our community and are committed to supporting the Government’s initiatives to combat the pandemic. Our officers assisted in setting up the anti-epidemic support centre, coordinated the distribution of electronic wristbands and anti-epidemic service bags to persons undergoing home quarantine, rendered help in the issuance of home quarantine orders to close contacts, conducted case tracing, and supported the Home Vaccination Service for the elderly. All these efforts fully display our officers’ professionalism, efficiency, team spirit as well as passion in serving the community. I am very grateful to all officers for their dedication and contribution.

During the year, the ICAC continues to adopt the three-pronged strategy of law enforcement, corruption prevention, and education, together with the strengthening of publicity for enlisting public support as well as deepening Mainland and international cooperation to build a clean society.

**Effective law enforcement, corruption prevention and education**

The corruption situation in Hong Kong was consistently kept under control. The civil service and the public bodies generally remained clean and honest, while the private sector maintained a level-playing field for business. In 2022, a total of 1 835 corruption complaints (excluding election complaints[[1]](#footnote-1)) were received, representing a decrease of 19% when compared to 2 264 complaints received in 2021. Complaints related to government departments and public bodies dropped by 17% (from 645 to 533) and 12% (from 137 to 121) respectively when compared to the same period of 2021. Complaints concerning the private sector also declined by 20% (from 1 482 to 1 181). The decrease in corruption complaints is believed to be attributed to the dampened economic activities as a result of the fifth wave of the pandemic in early 2022. The overall pattern of complaints was similar to that of 2021 with 64% of the complaints concerning the private sector, 29% relating to government departments and 7% involving public bodies.

As building management remained top of the list of corruption complaints in the private sector, the ICAC mounted a large-scale operation targeting property management and building renovation in early January 2023, which successfully neutralised a sophisticated corrupt syndicate. The investigation concerned 10 building maintenance projects which involved contract sums totalling over $500 million, with some of the projects involving over

$1 million in bribes. The ICAC continued to partner with the Property Management Services Authority to promote the integrity management system to the licensed property management companies and implement the multi-year Professional Property Management with Integrity Programme, in order to enhance the corruption prevention capabilities in the industry. As building management is closely related to the livelihood of people, the ICAC will closely monitor the situation in order to protect the interests of the public.

For the construction industry, the large-scale infrastructure projects under preparation and construction not only involved numerous works contracts, substantial funds and a huge demand for labour, but also posed new regulatory challenges to the industry. Given our great concern about the cases of bribery over job referrals, a series of ICAC’s enforcement actions had been mounted since 2021. Between 2021 and 2022, 20 persons involved in these cases were prosecuted with 12 of them already convicted. Meanwhile, the corruption risks inherent in the award of works contracts were equally worthy of attention. In August 2022, the ICAC took enforcement action against bribery over the award of works and material supplies contracts as well as the administrative and financial matters in the Three-runway System Project of the Hong Kong International Airport. Two former senior executives of the Airport Authority Hong Kong (AAHK) and various suppliers and subcontractors were swiftly prosecuted for accepting and offering bribes as well as money laundering. The ICAC strengthened its cooperation with AAHK and organised integrity trainings for AAHK’s staff, as well as managerial and supervisory staff of the contractors and consultants. The ICAC also worked together with all stakeholders including the Development Bureau and the Construction Industry Council through the implementation of the Construction Industry Integrity Charter 2.0 to cover consulting firms in the construction industry with the aim of fortifying the corruption prevention safeguards in the industry and proactively promoting integrity and corruption prevention messages to professionals, contractors, and also supervisory and frontline staff.

The ICAC has been maintaining close ties with the finance and insurance industry to sustain a clean business environment in Hong Kong. Among other initiatives, collaborative efforts have been made to fight corruption with financial regulators including the Securities and Futures Commission (SFC), the Accounting and Financial Reporting Council (AFRC), the Hong Kong Monetary Authority (HKMA) and the Insurance Authority. During the year, the joint operation mounted by the ICAC and the SFC successfully smashed a sophisticated syndicate operating ramp-and-dump schemes through a complex cross-shareholding network of listed companies in Hong Kong. The syndicate was alleged to have offered bribes to the responsible officers and staff of the brokers for assistance in share placing. The ICAC also collaborated with the Hong Kong Exchanges and Clearing Limited to strengthen the corruption prevention capabilities and governance of listed companies, and published a Corruption Prevention Guide for Banks jointly with the HKMA and various industry associations to entrench the integrity culture of the banking sector. With the launching of the Ethics Promotion Programme for the Banking Industry, ICAC organised seminars for members of the Corruption Prevention Network for Banks to strengthen exchanges with bank managers, and also provided continuing professional development training to the practitioners in collaboration with banking professional bodies. Online learning materials for frontline banking staff and a promotional leaflet to bank clients were also developed.

The ICAC is committed to ensuring clean elections through robust law enforcement by combatting possible offences of manipulating or undermining elections. To curb any such acts, a new provision, i.e. section 27A of the Elections (Corrupt and Illegal Conduct) Ordinance (“ECICO”) about “inciting not to vote, or to cast blank or invalid votes, by activity in public during election period”, was introduced in 2021. As at the end of December 2022, nine persons were charged for breaching the offence after ICAC investigations, with seven convicted and two pending plea. One other person was formally cautioned. The ICAC, apart from its vigorous enforcement actions, adopted a preventive and intervention approach by deploying officers to the polling stations on polling days to handle public enquiries and complaints on the spot, and monitoring the subsequent vote-counting process to ensure that the elections were conducted in a fair, open and just manner. Moreover, by adopting an “all-embracing” education and publicity strategy, the ICAC put across clean elections messages to candidates, election helpers and voters of the 2022 Chief Executive Election, 2022 Legislative Council Election Committee Constituency By-election and 2023 Rural Representative Election through organising briefings and publicity activities, producing information booklet for candidates and a reminder leaflet for voters, as well as making use of multimedia to widely disseminate clean election messages to the stakeholders.

**strengthening publicity for public support**

Although the coronavirus pandemic remained serious in 2022, the ICAC continued its liaison and publicity with various counterparts in order to enlist public support. ICAC officers exercised utmost resilience by conducting activities in groups or through online platforms to ensure the effectiveness of publicity work.

***Legislators Visiting ICAC***

To enhance mutual understanding, members of the new-term Legislative Council were invited to visit the ICAC in October 2022, and exchanged views with its directorate officers on anti-corruption work and development of the ICAC.

***Public Engagement***

During the year, the ICAC organised the “Journey for Integrity” signature event in the format of an experiential exhibition and orienteering at Tai Kwun and launched the “Journey for Integrity” City Walks Online Platform which included an interactive map and online games. Guided tours were also organised to encourage members of the public to explore the traces of anti-corruption work across the territories.

The ICAC organised an Open Day in July 2022. During this six-day event, guided tours were arranged for ICAC advisory committees, major chambers of commerce, professional bodies, youth bodies and district organisations as well as the general public to learn about the history and the latest development of Hong Kong’s anti-corruption work.

The year 2022 marked the 25th anniversary of the ICAC Club which signified a milestone of 3 000 members working hand in hand with the ICAC over the years to sustain a probity culture through more than 70 000 hours of voluntary services in anti-corruption activities. I attended the annual gathering to commend Club members who had served enthusiastically. The ICAC also piloted a mentoring programme for the young Club members by inviting retired ICAC officers as mentors to share their experience in work, employment and life planning.

***Stepping Up Media Publicity***

Upon assumption of office, I decided to upgrade ICAC’s “All for Integrity” activity page to “Hong Kong ICAC” official fanpage in Facebook. A new “Hong Kong ICAC” Instagram official account was also created to share more frequently with members of the public the latest work of ICAC, promoting anti-corruption messages and the professionalism of ICAC officers to different strata of society.

Besides, I took part in various media interviews to publicise anti-corruption messages. During the year, our major publicity initiatives also included a new announcement of public interest and the *ICAC Investigators 2022* drama series to highlight the unchanged persistence and professionalism of ICAC officers in graft-fighting. Based on real cases, the well-known drama series adopted a down-to-earth approach to demonstrate to TV audience and netizens ICAC’s relentless efforts in curbing corruption.

***Reinforcing Moral Education and Law-Abidingness in Youth***

“When the young people thrive, our country thrives.” ICAC places emphasis on nurturing youngsters to become honest and law-abiding leaders of the future. During the year, I attended the training activity arranged for over 200 participating schools of the i Junior Programme for Primary Schools. After receiving training in game facilitation and leadership as arranged by the ICAC, about 100 i Junior Leaders assisted their teachers in organising activities and group games for their schoolmates, from which all leaders and participants alike, learnt about the values of law-abidingness, honesty and integrity. ICAC also launched an animation-based teaching package to support teachers in implementing the school-based curriculum of values education. In addition to continuing to organise the [ICAC Ambassador Programme](https://me.icac.hk/moral-activity/activity/index_id_5.html) for tertiary students and [iTeen Leadership Programme](https://me.icac.hk/new/5538/#/) for secondary students, the ICAC also deepened their understanding of the rule of law through different training and experiential activities under the iPLUS Youth Development Programme. Between October and November 2022, the ICAC held the first-ever joint anti-corruption workshop for Postgraduate Certificate in Laws (PCLL) programme students from the University of Hong Kong, the Chinese University of Hong Kong and the City University of Hong Kong. Targeting the future pillars of the legal profession, the workshop highlighting the importance of the rule of law and the joint efforts to combat graft gave these students a better understanding of Hong Kong’s anti-corruption regime and ICAC’s enforcement work.

**ENHANCING mainland and international cooperation FOR A CLEan society**

***Mainland and Macao Cooperation***

ICAC continued to maintain close communication with our counterparts in the Mainland and Macao. I attended an online meeting with the Commissioner of the Commission Against Corruption of Macao in November 2022 to exchange views on the anti-corruption work of Hong Kong and Macao. Once quarantine-free travel is resumed, the ICAC will expedite its collaboration with the anti-corruption counterparts in the Mainland and Macao having regard to the national development and anti-graft policies.

***International Cooperation***

On the international cooperation front, ICAC continued to make use of online platforms and video conferences to maintain close international tie by providing capacity building training programmes to overseas anti-corruption agencies (ACAs) and also sharing Hong Kong’s successful anti-corruption experience with them.

With the relaxation on quarantine requirements, I conducted my first overseas duty visit in my term of office in September 2022 by participating in the commemorative event of the 70th Anniversary of the Corrupt Practices Investigation Bureau (CPIB) in Singapore. Taking this opportunity, I attended bilateral meetings with the heads of law enforcement and prosecutorial authorities and international organisation in Singapore, including the Director of CPIB, Deputy Attorney-General, Commissioner of Singapore Police Force and Executive Director of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation as well as leaders of ACAs from other Southeast Asian countries including Brunei Darussalam and Indonesia, who also attended the same event, to emphasise Hong Kong’s strong institutions including the rule of law and anti-corruption system, strengthen the partnership between the ICAC and these agencies, and explore further collaboration opportunities.

Besides, I visited Malaysia and Thailand in December, and met with heads of anti-corruption agencies including Chief Commissioner of Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission and Advisory Board Chairman of the National Anti-Financial Crime Centre, as well as President of the National Anti-Corruption Commission of Thailand and Secretary-General of the Office of Public Sector Anti-Corruption Commission. I made use of these opportunities to foster cooperation with our counterparts in Southeast Asia, introduce our latest anti-corruption strategies and impress upon them Hong Kong’s strong rule of law and stable social environment.

In view of the great demand expressed by various ACAs during my overseas visits for reactivation of our face-to-face training programme, the ICAC hosted the Financial Investigation Specialist Training (FIST), themed “Fortifying Investigative Forces in Combating Corruption”, for officers from ACAs in seven Southeast Asian countries and local law enforcement agencies in order to enhance their capabilities in financial data analysis, investigation, and confiscation of proceeds of crime, etc. During their stay in Hong Kong, these counterparts networked among themselves and gained the first hand understanding of the strong rule of law and probity environment of Hong Kong. This nine-day course was the first ICAC’s face-to-face training programme organised for overseas participants since the onset of the coronavirus pandemic.

Since the ICAC took up the Presidency of International Association of Anti-Corruption Authorities (IAACA) and established the Secretariat in January 2022, we have deepened communication and strengthened collaboration with ACAs and international organisations, and also successfully enhanced the IAACA’s visibility in the international anti-corruption arena. The regional coordination mechanism initiated by the ICAC has also generated positive results in advancing partnership among ACAs in the five main regions of the world. Our work on international cooperation plays a crucial part on the mission of consolidating the pioneering role of Hong Kong in the global anti-corruption work.

**breakthroughs and innovations for scaling new heights**

In line with the national development blueprint on anti-corruption for the international world and Belt and Road countries, and also for the purpose of reflecting the true picture of probity situation in Hong Kong, the ICAC is planning to set up the Hong Kong International Academy Against Corruption (HKIAAC) by promoting anti-corruption work of our country and Hong Kong in a more proactive and effective approach. HKIAAC will offer continuous and strategic anti-corruption training programmes to officers from local and overseas ACAs with a view to enhancing their understanding of the determination and fruitful results of anti-corruption work in our country. Furthermore, HKIAAC will provide an exchange platform for local and overseas researchers as well as academics in the field of anti-corruption to foster collaboration in anti-corruption research and sharing of resources, thus building a bridge of integrity jointly on a global scale. In this connection, the status and influence of Hong Kong in the global graft-fighting arena will be enhanced.

In retrospect of almost half a century, the ICAC has established a solid cornerstone of integrity in the society of Hong Kong. Looking ahead, we will give our utmost efforts to implement our mission in combatting corruption and safeguarding Hong Kong as a city of integrity. The ICAC is approaching the 50th anniversary and for the coming year till 2024, we will organise a series of celebration activities, including an international symposium, Open Day, TV drama series, and public engagement activities, etc. The ICAC will showcase to the local and international communities our strong determination to eradicate corruption and the hard-earned success of Hong Kong in fighting corruption.

With a growing expectation of good public governance and an effective and clean Government, we must also set higher standards for our work. As we embark on a journey in pursuit of breakthroughs and innovations in the core areas of our work including law enforcement, corruption prevention, community education, and international cooperation, etc., I look forward to leading this excellent team of ICAC officers in scaling new heights and contributing further to building a probity environment in Hong Kong.

**Chapter 3 International Cooperation and Corporate Services Department**

**Duties**

The International Cooperation and Corporate Services Department (ICD) assists the Commissioner in exercising his statutory duties under the *Independent Commission Against Corruption Ordinance* (Cap 204). ICD is responsible for the general administration of the ICAC 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*.

ICD is also responsible for the procurement and supplies of goods and services, office accommodation management, general office support, translation, records management and green management.

Regarding international cooperation, the major responsibilities are to:

* provide international capacity building training and consultancy service;
* promote Hong Kong’s probity culture, effective anti-corruption regime and strong rule of law to the international community;
* sustain anti-corruption collaboration in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area (GBA);
* conduct anti-corruption research and analysis; and
* operate the Secretariat of the International Association of Anti-Corruption Authorities (IAACA).

**STRUCTURE**

ICD is headed by a Director and it comprises two branches, namely the International Cooperation Branch and Corporate Services Branch.

**StrategIES**

The strategy of the International Cooperation Branch is to:

* Enhance collaboration with international counterparts to advance the global fight against corruption and sustain the ICAC as the forerunner in the anti-corruption cause;
* Engage anti-corruption agencies (ACAs) worldwide in preventing and fighting corruption to foster the implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC) and keep fighting corruption a common front; and
* Encourage capacity building, knowledge and experience sharing to fulfil ICAC's obligations under UNCAC.

The Corporate Services Branch provides professional resource management and administrative support to the ICAC. Its strategy is to:

* Provide multi-faceted resource management and administrative support services to facilitate the smooth and efficient operation of the ICAC;
* Formulate and co-ordinate policies to strengthen corporate governance and safeguard compliance with government policies, rules and regulations; and
* Scrutinise and prioritize the use of government resources to ensure cost-effectiveness, affordability and sustainability.

**international Cooperation**

***International Capacity Building Training and Consultancy Service***

Since 2017, the ICAC has been strengthening international capacity building training and consultancy service to anti-corruption agencies (ACAs) of other jurisdictions, in particular the Belt and Road (B&R) countries, under the framework of UNCAC.

By the end of 2022, ICB has established connections with around 70 States Parties to the UNCAC, most of which are B&R countries. During the year, ICB organised eight online training programmes for ACAs in Jordan, Kenya, Laos, Morocco, Romania, Sri Lanka, Thailand and the United Arab Emirates respectively, benefitting around 150 overseas graft-fighters. With the gradual lifting of travel restrictions around the world, ICB will resume face-to-face training programmes in early 2023.

Apart from organising training programmes, ICB had in-depth exchange with ACAs of Brunei Darussalam, Ecuador, Fiji, Jordan, Kyrgyzstan, Nepal, Nigeria, the United Arab Emirates and Uzbekistan respectively through online platforms. The Commissioner also had face-to-face meetings with a delegation from the Consulate General of Indonesia in Hong Kong and a high-level delegation from the Abu Dhabi Accountability Authority of the United Arab Emirates which came to Hong Kong for studying the city’s anti-corruption system. These exchanges allowed the ICAC to impress upon the delegations our experience in fighting and preventing corruption as well as Hong Kong’s strong rule of law, stable social environment and integrity culture, and also provided us with an opportunity to understand these countries’ training needs that served as a solid base for training cooperation in the future.

The ICAC continued to export its valuable anti-corruption experience through international platforms. Upon invitation from the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), the ICAC is developing jointly with UNODC a global policy guide on youth engagement and empowerment in anti-corruption efforts. During the year, the expert team interviewed more than a dozen anti-corruption and related organisations in the world and tens of global youth representatives, including four members of ICAC’s youth group “i-League”, and would conduct a questionnaire survey with ACAs around the world through the IAACA Secretariat. This novel publication is expected to be launched in the second half of 2023 for reference of national ACAs and at the same time marking the 20th anniversary of UNCAC.

***International Publicity***

ICB made use of a wide range of channels, including arranging ICAC representatives to pay overseas visits and speak in international conferences, receiving overseas anti-corruption officials and government/business leaders, releasing information through the online platform “International Perspective” on ICAC’s corporate website and e-News, to promote Hong Kong’s strong rule of law, effective anti-graft system and corruption-free society.

During the year, ICB also supported the Commissioner and Heads of Department to conduct online meetings with international ranking institutions to introduce them to Hong Kong’s robust rule of law and probity environment, and the positive impact of *The Law of the People’s Republic of China on Safeguarding National Security in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region* and the Improved Electoral System on sustaining the city’s safety and stability.

With the global pandemic stabilising gradually, the Commissioner resumed his overseas official visits, including a visit to Singapore in September and another to Malaysia and Thailand in December. During the visits, the Commissioner met with heads of ACAs of Singapore, Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia, Malaysia and Thailand as well as representatives of international organisations there to strengthen the partnership with these agencies. The Commissioner also made use of these opportunities to impress upon the international community the good stories of Hong Kong.

Seasoned ICAC officers shared Hong Kong’s successful anti-corruption model and experience as well as best practices in various international events, including the Regional Anti-Corruption Conference for Law Enforcement Professionals in Southeast Asia organised by UNODC, the Regional Seminar on Good Governance for Southeast Asian Countries organised by the United Nations Asia and Far East Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders, and the Competition Law Conference organised by the Malaysia Competition Commission.

***Mainland Liaison and Anti-Corruption Collaboration in the Greater Bay Area***

Corresponding to the national development and anti-graft policies, the ICAC continues to maintain close communication with its counterparts in the Mainland and Macao. In November 2022, the Commissioner held an online meeting with the Commissioner of the Commission Against Corruption of Macao to exchange views on the anti-corruption work of Hong Kong and Macao. The ICAC is actively pursuing with the National Commission of Supervision, the Guangdong Provincial Commission of Supervision and the Commission Against Corruption of Macao to resume the face-to-face tripartite meeting to discuss anti-corruption collaboration to support the National 14th Five-Year Plan and the development of GBA once travel restriction is lifted.

***Anti-Corruption Research and Analysis***

Research studies are part and parcel of ICAC’s work in international cooperation. During the year, ICB conducted research projects on different subjects to support the anti-corruption capacity building training and consultancy service. ICB also closely monitored Hong Kong’s probity rankings released by international institutions, and prepared analyses for these reports for devising suitable work strategies.

***International Association of Anti-Corruption Authorities***

Since the ICAC took up the Presidency of IAACA in January 2022, the IAACA Secretariat, operated by ICB, supported the President and the Executive Committee members in establishing collaboration with anti-corruption counterparts worldwide through their extensive network and the regional coordination mechanism initiated by the ICAC, participating in global and regional conferences, and fostering international anti-corruption collaboration for the effective implementation of the UNCAC.

During the year, the Secretariat supported the President and the Executive Committee in carrying out IAACA’s initiatives, including organising and co-ordinating anti-corruption conferences and training programmes, expanding the network of IAACA and promoting experience sharing around the world, identifying training needs of ACAs for tailoring capacity building programmes, advocating the regional coordination mechanism and supporting regional coordinators in strengthening collaboration among ACAs in the regions, as well as enhancing communications among IAACA members through publishing e-newsletter. In addition, the Secretariat connected with more than 25 ACAs and international organisations for strengthening cooperation, and expanded the organisational membership of the IAACA from 123 to 156.

In December 2022, the Secretariat hosted the IAACA General Meeting in virtual format, at which the members had a fruitful exchange on IAACA’s future development and noted the experience sharing by the regional groups in furthering collaboration among ACAs in the regions. The ICAC, serving as the regional coordinator of Asia-Pacific Regional Group in IAACA, will join hands with the Central Vigilance Commission of India, the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission and the Corrupt Practices Investigation Bureau of Singapore to organise an online training in early 2023 for anti-corruption practitioners worldwide to strengthen their knowledge of and skills in forensic investigation.

***Visitors outside Hong Kong***

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, some visit programmes by delegations from other jurisdictions have been postponed or cancelled. In the year, 197 persons from one international organisation and four countries and territories visited the ICAC. On the other hand, the ICAC continued to maintain close contact with counterparts from other jurisdictions and shared with them our anti-corruption experiences through online platforms.

Figure 3-1: Non-local Visitors to the ICAC in 2022

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Countries and Territories** | **No. of Visitors** |
| Mainland China | 182 |
| Indonesia | 6 |
| Mexico | 2 |
| United Arab Emirates | 5 |
|  |  |
| **International Organisations** | **No. of Visitors** |
| European Union Office to Hong Kong and Macao | 2 |

**Corporate Services**

***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 *Independent Commission Against Corruption Ordinance*. ICAC’s accounts are administered according to government regulations and procedures and are subject to examination by the Director of Audit in the same way as the accounts of other government departments.

***Human Resource Management***

The establishment and staff strength of the ICAC as at 31 December 2022 are shown in Appendix 1. During the year, 69 departmental grades officers and 35 general and support grades officers ceased service with the ICAC, resulting in an overall wastage rate of 7.4%.

ICAC staff are normally appointed on gratuity-bearing agreements. Some 77 per cent of the staff are departmental grades 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, ICD 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 (ICLC), Training Camp, multi-purpose hall and gymnasium.

In 2022, 81 in-house courses and seminars were conducted and officers were arranged to attend various training courses organised by government departments and external organisations, with accumulated attendances of

2 740 and 1 856 officers respectively. They included a Strategic Thinking and Leadership Series organised to meet the challenges brought by the COVID-19 epidemic, technology innovation and rapid changes of the social, economic and political landscape, and a wide range of briefings and training to help officers keep abreast of the latest trend in their related fields as well as to further enhance their professional, management and job skills.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  |  |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | |
| **Course Content** | |
|  | ISO37001:2016 Anti-bribery Management Systems, Project/Event Management, Building Trust in Communicating with Youth, Trend in Digital Marketing and Virtual Event Implementation and Transformation of Learning Experience through Innovation and Technology |
|  |  |
|  | Departmental Briefings on Rural Elections |
|  |  |
|  | Presentation Skills, Coaching for Results, Fundamental Management Skills, Interpersonal and Networking Skills, Creative Problem Solving and Decision Making, and Team Building Workshop |
|  |  |
|  | Induction Courses, Administrative Briefing, Software Applications and Language Courses |
|  |  |
|  | Perspectives of Social Media News, Public Service Leadership & Stakeholders Engagement, Public Trust on Government – How Can ICAC Gain Public Trust, How Can ICAC Maintain its Status in the Fast-changing Local and International Environment, Innovation and Technology – How Can ICAC Survive in Digital Transformation, and “One Country, Two Systems” |
|  |  |
|  | Various trainings provided by other government departments and external training organisations |
|  |  |

***Staff Relations and Welfare***

Staff Relations Section is designated to handle staff relations and welfare matters in the ICAC. To promote a work-life balance and take care of the well-being of staff members, during the year, the Section and the ICAC Staff Club organise wellness and welfare activities from time to time. To show care to members of the public and provide assistance to the underprivileged groups in the community, they also encourage staff to participate in volunteer services and charitable activities. The Section also aims at enhancing communications between management and staff through the time-tested staff consultative committee system, welfare visits and Staff Suggestions Scheme. During the year, activities organised by the Section included:

* Staff consultative committee - To allow staff members to express their views on matters relating to conditions of service, welfare and issues of common concern through regular meetings. During the year, a total of 10 staff consultative committee meetings were conducted.
* Sporting, recreational, wellness, social activities, volunteer services and charitable activities - To promote a healthy life style and work-life balance among staff. During the year, a total 57 activities were organised.
* Staff Suggestions Scheme - To encourage staff to make suggestions to improve resource management, work efficiency or environmental protection measures, etc. In 2022, the ICAC Staff Suggestions Committee received 52 suggestions.
* Credit Union - To promote thrift and provide credit facilities to members in accordance with the *Credit Unions Ordinance* (Cap 119). At the end of 2022, the Credit Union had 868 members with a total savings of around $146 million.

***Occupational Safety and Health***

The ICAC is committed to providing and maintaining a safe and healthy work environment for all staff. A total of 90 officers are now serving as occupational safety and health (OSH) managers in different units to assist in the implementation of various OSH initiatives and measures, such as Display Screen Equipment Assessment and Office Safety Inspection.

During the year, various activities and training courses such as Fire Safety Talk, Safety Talk on Manual Handling, Display Screen Equipment and General Office Safety, and Sound Therapy Workshop for Stress Reduction were arranged. We also updated and disseminated OSH information through intranet regularly to promote the awareness of OSH.

***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 (Corporate Services) 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 2022, the Committee continued to implement green measures through waste reduction, waste recycling and reuse, energy and water conservation, and green procurement.

***Awards and Commendations***

In 2022, one officer was awarded the Gold Bauhinia Star, one officer was awarded the Silver Bauhinia Star, one officer was awarded the Hong Kong ICAC Medal for Distinguished Service, two officers were awarded the Hong Kong ICAC Medal for Meritorious Service and one officer was awarded the Chief Executive’s Commendation for Government/Public Service. In addition, 95 officers also received long service awards and 32 officers received the ICAC Heads of Department’s Commendations.

**Chapter 4 Operations Department**

**STATUTORY DUTIES**

* Receive and consider allegations of corrupt practices, and conduct investigations as far as practicable.
* Investigate any suspected or alleged offences under the *Prevention of Bribery Ordinance* (POBO) (Cap 201), the *Independent Commission Against Corruption Ordinance* (ICACO) (Cap 204) and the *Elections (Corrupt and Illegal Conduct) Ordinance* (ECICO) (Cap 554).
* Investigate any suspected or alleged offences of blackmail committed by a prescribed officer by or 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), which is the largest department of the Independent Commission Against Corruption (ICAC), undertakes investigation of corruption and related offences in the public and private sectors under the command of the Head of Operations with assistance from two Directors of Investigation. The Head of Operations, who is also the Deputy Commissioner, reports to the Commissioner. OPS is organised into four investigation branches, each overseen by an Assistant Director.

**POWERS**

OPS officers are empowered to conduct investigations, and exercise powers including arrest, detention, search operations, access to accounts, requests for surrender of travel documents, restraints on suspects’ possession or control of assets, in accordance with law or, where appropriate, with court authorisation.

**OPERATIONS REVIEW COMMITTEE**

Appointed by the Chief Executive, the Operations Review Committee (ORC) operates independently in overseeing the investigative work of the ICAC. ORC members meet regularly to review reports prepared by OPS and give recommendations. These reports include:

* updates on the progress of major investigations;
* cases investigated for over a year;
* cases where ICAC bail has been granted for over six months;
* updates on prosecutions; and
* completed investigations.

For completed investigations, the ICAC will make reports to ORC on recommendation to curtail those investigations, and where necessary, refer matters disclosed during the course of investigations to relevant government bureaux/departments (B/Ds) or public bodies for consideration of disciplinary or corresponding actions.

**PROSECUTION**

The ICAC is responsible for undertaking corruption investigations, and analysing and forwarding the evidence gathered to the Department of Justice (DoJ) for consideration of institution of prosecution. Under the POBO, the consent of the Secretary for Justice is required for the prosecution of any of the offences listed in Part II of the ordinance, including solicitation or acceptance of advantages, bribery, corrupt transactions with agents and possession of unexplained property.

**SOURCES OF CORRUPTION CASES**

***Corruption Complaints***

Members of the public may report any suspected corruption to the ICAC regardless of whether or not substantial evidence is available. They are encouraged to report corruption in person at the ICAC Report Centre or any of the seven Regional Offices. Alternatively, they may report corruption 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, refer them to other government B/Ds or public bodies for action.

While the public is encouraged to report corruption, it is necessary to ensure that the report mechanism will not be abused. Under section 13B of the ICACO, any person who intentionally makes a false report to an ICAC officer shall be guilty of an offence. Besides, the details of a corruption investigation or the identity of the subject person are protected from being disclosed without lawful authority or reasonable excuse under section 30 of the POBO.

***Proactive Approach***

OPS adopts a proactive strategy to detect unreported corruption and identify corruption prone areas or sectors. This approach demonstrates the ICAC’s determination to seek out and eradicate corruption wherever it may be, and is proven effective in uncovering serious cases of corruption in order to safeguard public interests.

**STATISTICS ON CORRUPTION COMPLAINTS**

In 2022, OPS received a total of 1 835 corruption complaints (excluding election complaints[[2]](#footnote-2)), representing a decrease of 429 complaints (or 19%) when compared to the same period in 2021, while pursuable complaints decreased by 300 (or 17%) to 1 438. A breakdown of the corruption complaints in 2021 and 2022 by sector is shown in Figure 4-1.

**Figure 4-1: Corruption Complaints (Excluding Election Complaints) Recorded by Sector in 2021 and 2022**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Received in 2021 | | Received in 2022 | |
| Pursuable Complaints | Non-Pursuable Complaints | Pursuable Complaints | Non-Pursuable Complaints |
| Government Bureaux/  Departments | 426 | 219 | 372 | 161 |
| Public Bodies | 98 | 39 | 77 | 44 |
| Private Sector | 1 214 | 268 | 989 | 192 |

In 2022, the ICAC received a total of 179 election complaints. Of the 176 pursuable complaints, 96 were related to the 2021 Legislative Council General Election.

**INVESTIGATIONS AND PROSECUTIONS**

***Investigations***

In 2022, OPS initiated investigation on 1 408 new cases (excluding election cases), representing a 17% drop when compared to the same period of 2021. During the year, 1 582 cases were completed and 109 pending legal advice. The numbers of cases carried forward and completed in 2021 and 2022 are set out in Figure 4-2. Separately, investigation of a total of 175 new election cases were initiated in 2022. The time spent on outstanding investigations is shown in Appendix 3.

**Figure 4-2: Statistics on Caseload in 2021 and 2022**

**(Excluding Election Cases)**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | 2021 | | | 2022 | | | |
| Cases brought forward from previous years |  | 1 151 |  |  | 1 087 | △ |
| Add New cases during the year | + | 1 692 |  | + | 1 408 |  |
| Total caseload during the year |  | 2 843 |  |  | 2 495 | △ |
| Less Cases completed |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Cases completed from those commenced during the year | - | 787 | △ | - | 650 |  |
| Cases completed from those brought forward | - | 969 | △ | - | 932 |  |
| Cases carried forward |  | 1 087 | △ |  | 913 | \* |

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

\* Time spent on investigating outstanding cases is shown in Appendix 3.

***Prosecutions and Cautions***

Among the 215 persons prosecuted in 2022, 20 were government servants, three from public bodies and 166 from the private sector, while 15 private individuals were involved in corruption investigations concerning government B/Ds or public bodies and 11 involved in election offences.

The guidelines issued by DoJ provide that upon legal advice, a caution may be administered by the ICAC for minor offences when it is not in the public interest to prosecute. In 2022, among the 17 persons who were formally cautioned, one was involved in an election case. A breakdown of the number of persons prosecuted or cautioned by the ICAC over the last decade is provided in Appendix 4.

For relatively minor electoral breaches, on DoJ’s advice, the ICAC will issue warning letters to the offenders if it is considered not in the public interest to prosecute or caution the offenders. In 2022, a total of 22 persons were given warnings by the ICAC for minor election offences concerning failure to lodge election returns in accordance with the requirements set out in sections 19, 23(3), 26 and 37 of the ECICO (Cap 554).

The numbers of prosecutions, cautions and warnings in 2022 recorded by types are shown in Appendices 5 to 7.

***Referrals***

During the year, the ICAC referred 340 complaints of non-corruption nature to relevant government B/Ds or public bodies, details of which are provided at Appendix 8.

**DISCIPLINARY AND/OR ADMINISTRATIVE ACTION AGAINST GOVERNMENT SERVANTS**

On the recommendation of ORC, reports on alleged misconduct of 116 government servants were forwarded to the heads of government B/Ds concerned for consideration of disciplinary and/or administrative action in 2022. Cases involving 83 government servants (including 34 in referrals made in 2022) were completed in the year, resulting in disciplinary action taken against 62 government servants (including 29 in referred cases in 2022).

**REPORT CENTRE AND DETENTION CENTRE**

***Report Centre***

The Report Centre receives reports and handles enquiries from the public on a 24-hour basis. Reports and enquiries made to the Regional Offices are also referred to the Report Centre for handling. In 2022, 71% of the complainants identified themselves when reporting corruption.

**Figure 4-3: Mode of Reporting Corruption Complaints in 2022 (Excluding Election Complaints)**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | All Complaints | Non-anonymous Complaints |
| By phone | 37.2% | 49.9% |
| In person | 21.3% | 29.7% |
| By letter | 26.2% | 5.9% |
| Referred by government bureaux/departments and public bodies | 9.8% | 10.1% |
| By email | 5.3% | 4.1% |
| By fax | 0.3% | 0.2% |

***Detention Centre***

OPS provides comprehensive detention facilities as the power to detain arrested persons is provided for in section 10A(2) of the ICACO (Cap 204). Persons under detention will receive a Notice to Persons Detained showing the rights and entitlements of persons detained as set out in the *ICAC (Treatment of Detained Persons) Order* (Cap 204A). This Notice is also displayed in detention cells, interview rooms and various conspicuous places in the Detention Centre.

In 2022, OPS arrested 495 persons, 32 of whom were government servants, as compared to 507 arrested (including 18 government servants) in 2021.

Justices of the Peace visited the Detention Centre on 24 occasions in 2022 and received requests or complaints from detainees. Every visit is reported to the Justices of the Peace Secretariat, detailing the requests or complaints made by detainees and the follow-up actions taken accordingly. These visits ensure that the detention facilities of the ICAC are subject to external monitoring.

**QUICK RESPONSE TEAM**

The Quick Response Team deals with minor cases, enabling other investigation teams in OPS to focus on cases of substance and complexity. Notwithstanding the minor nature of the cases, the investigation reports concerned are submitted to ORC for scrutiny. In 2022, investigation on 180 new cases were initiated by the Quick Response Team, representing 13% of the pursuable cases received (excluding election cases) in the year.

**FORENSIC ACCOUNTING**

Established in 2011, the Forensic Accounting Group (FAG) comprises dedicated Forensic Accountant Grade officers with professional qualifications and extensive forensic accounting experience. It provides support to investigating officers in dealing with cases of increasing complexity 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, and assisting in search operations and interviews. FAG officers also conduct training courses for OPS officers as well as law enforcers and regulators from local and overseas agencies to enhance their skills and knowledge in financial investigation.

**PROCEEDS OF CRIME**

To intensively combat corruption and related crimes, the ICAC established the Proceeds of Crime Section in 2010 to deal with restraint, disclosure and confiscation of assets under the *Organized and Serious Crimes Ordinance* (Cap 455) in order to deprive criminals of their crime proceeds. As at the end of December 2022, assets valued at $1.476 billion continued to remain restrained, of which assets amounting to $428.7 million were restrained following the making of eight restraint orders during the year.

In accordance with section 14C of the POBO (Cap 201), applications may be made to court by the ICAC to restrain assets in the possession or under the control of suspects. As at the end of December 2022, assets valued at $66.38 million continued to remain restrained under the POBO.

Being an inter-governmental body dedicated to preventing global money laundering and terrorist financing, the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) recommends jurisdictions to identify, assess, understand and mitigate money laundering and terrorist financing risks specific to them. To address the risks, Hong Kong has put in place a robust and effective regime conforming to the international standards set by the FATF. While a comprehensive risk assessment is conducted periodically to examine money laundering and terrorist financing threats facing the territory and its business community, continued efforts are made to explore optimised initiatives to address these threats by individual sectors.

Hong Kong published a risk assessment report in July 2022 on completion of the second money laundering and terrorist financing risk assessment. The ICAC, being one of the key stakeholders in the assessment, proactively provided information and data for assessment of the corruption-related money laundering threats.

**WITNESS PROTECTION**

The success in criminal investigation and prosecution always hinges on whether the witnesses can testify in a safe and uninterrupted manner 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 acting as witnesses for the ICAC. The Commission has a dedicated section and specially trained officers to deal with matters concerning witness protection.

**OPERATIONAL LIAISON**

The ICAC is committed to forging partnership with various sectors in its fight against corruption. To this end, regular operational liaison is maintained with government departments and public bodies to facilitate effective communication. In 2022, senior officers of OPS continued to hold liaison meetings with the disciplined services and individual government departments to discuss matters of mutual interest. In August, the Head of Operations briefed the politically appointed officials of the current-term Government on the importance of maintaining a clean government and civil service, while an Assistant Director of OPS promoted the probity culture to civil servants under the Ethical Leadership Programme in October. The Head of Operations also shared the ICAC’s experience in integrity management and corruption cases concerning civil servants with the senior officers of the Customs and Excise Department upon invitation in November, and delivered integrity training to directorate and senior officers participating in the Advanced Leadership Enhancement Programme at the Civil Service College in December.

Directorate officers of OPS and the Prosecutions Division of DoJ meet regularly to exchange views on legal and enforcement issues warranting concern. The meeting held in June 2022 was co-chaired by the Head of Operations and the Director of Public Prosecutions.

Meanwhile, sustained efforts are also made to enhance communication with public bodies. During the year, OPS stepped up collaboration with the management of a number of public bodies including the Hospital Authority, the Hong Kong Jockey Club, the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology and the Airport Authority Hong Kong through meetings or seminars to consolidate their probity culture by optimising their integrity management systems and enhancing staff awareness of corruption.

Concerning the private sector, OPS strives to maintain constant liaison with the finance and insurance industry, and collaborative efforts have been made in conjunction with the financial regulators including the Securities and Futures Commission (SFC), the Accounting and Financial Reporting Council (AFRC), the Hong Kong Monetary Authority and the Insurance Authority to combat corruption concerning the industry. The ICAC signed a Memorandum of Understanding separately with the SFC and the AFRC years ago to strengthen cooperation in areas such as law enforcement and internal training. In a joint operation mounted by the ICAC and the SFC in late 2022, a number of core members of a sophisticated syndicate suspected of operating ramp-and-dump schemes were arrested. Besides, in view of the large number of corruption complaints concerning the building management and the construction industries, OPS has maintained regular liaison with the related stakeholders including the Property Management Services Authority (PMSA), the Urban Renewal Authority (URA) and the Construction Industry Council to strengthen enforcement efficacy.

As building management remained top of the list of corruption complaints in the private sector, the ICAC maintains close liaison with the industry’s stakeholders, including the PMSA and the URA, to strengthen corruption resistance through law enforcement, prevention and education. The ICAC also stays alert to the corruption risks in the building renovation subsidy schemes, and continues to take vigorous enforcement action against corruption and related offences concerning building management by adopting a two-pronged strategy through investigation and evidence gathering to bring the corrupt to justice, as well as early intervention action to alert property owners to the potential risks. In early January 2023, the ICAC mounted a large-scale operation concerning property management and building renovation, which successfully neutralised a sophisticated corrupt syndicate. The investigation concerned 10 building renovation projects involving contract sums totalling over $500 million, with some of the projects involving over $1 million in bribes. As building management is closely related to the people’s livelihood, the enforcement action well demonstrated the ICAC’s resolute determination in protecting the interests of the public.

**INTERNATIONAL AND MAINLAND LIAISON AND MUTUAL ASSISTANCE**

The International and Mainland (Operational) Liaison Section of OPS is responsible for maintaining effective operational liaison and cooperation with international, the Mainland of China (the Mainland) and Macao anti-corruption and law enforcement agencies. During the coronavirus pandemic, OPS made effective use of technology in conducting liaison meetings. While the pandemic situation has gradually subsided, OPS sent officers to attend international conferences and provided mutual case assistance in person. During the year, the Section successfully arranged for ICAC officers to carry out investigations in Macao and assisted law enforcement officers from the Mainland to interview witnesses in Hong Kong.

Pursuant to the *Mutual Legal Assistance in* *Criminal Matters Ordinance* (Cap 525), the *United Nations Convention against Corruption* (UNCAC) and the *United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime*, authorised ICAC officers may assist in conducting enquiries into corruption-related matters in response to requests from overseas law enforcement agencies and judicial authorities. In 2022, the ICAC handled 13 such requests, while assistance was received from overseas counterparts to handle two requests from the ICAC.

The Commission attaches great importance to collaboration with its counterparts from other jurisdictions as well as international and regional organisations in preventing and eradicating corruption. In particular, the ICAC, in the name of Hong Kong, China or as a member of the Chinese delegation, has been participating in various international organisations, including the Global Operational Network of Anti-Corruption Law Enforcement Authorities (GlobE Network)[[3]](#footnote-3) under the auspices of the United Nations, the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Anti-Corruption and Transparency Experts Working Group, the Economic Crime Agencies Network and the Anti-Corruption Initiative for Asia Pacific jointly managed by the Asian Development Bank and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development.

**INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY**

***Computer Forensics***

The advancement and penetration of information technology (IT) has made it an integral part of people’s daily lives and in the delivery of commercial activities and public services. Criminals are no exception. They exploit IT or electronic devices, such as smartphones, to communicate and even carry out illicit activities. The Computer Forensics Section hence plays a pivotal role in providing support to frontline investigators in retrieving, securing and analysing electronic data to identify valuable information for investigation and producing admissible evidence in court. In 2022, the Section took part in operations and processed about 300 terabytes of data (equivalent to about 300 million computer files) contained in about 1 000 seized digital devices. The Section also maintains close liaison with other law enforcement agencies and the IT industry to keep abreast of the latest technological development and trend in IT and computer forensics.

The ICAC has incorporated artificial intelligence in the operational systems to keep pace with the cutting-edge technology for continuous enhancement of investigation and work efficiency.

***Information Technology Support***

The Information Technology Management Unit provides professional IT advice and support including the formulation of IT strategy and information security policy for the ICAC. The Unit is committed to maintaining a secure, reliable and stable IT infrastructure to facilitate the daily operation of the Commission. Meanwhile, constant development and enhancement of the application systems are conducted to streamline the ICAC’s administrative and investigative processes and to enhance work efficiency in meeting the evolving IT and operational needs. To address the new operational requirements arising from the coronavirus pandemic, the Unit has also equipped the ICAC with suitable facilities to help officers organise and attend online meetings and events.

**STAFF DISCIPLINE**

***Internal Investigation and Monitoring***

The ICAC’s Internal Investigation and Monitoring Group (L Group) is responsible for investigating breaches of discipline and allegations of corruption against ICAC staff, as well as non-criminal complaints against the ICAC or its staff. Operationally, L Group is under the direct command of the Director of Investigation (Private Sector) who reports to the Commissioner.

Appointed by the Chief Executive, the ICAC Complaints Committee monitors and reviews all non-criminal complaints against the ICAC or its staff, and advises on optimisation of the ICAC’s operational procedures.

All complaints of corruption and related criminal offences against the ICAC staff are referred to DoJ for advice. Every allegation is examined and considered to decide whether there is sufficient basis to warrant a criminal investigation and whether the investigation should be carried out by L Group. All criminal investigations completed by L Group are reported to ORC, while other cases are referred to the appropriate authorities for investigation.

During the year, there was no complaint of corruption and related criminal offences concerning ICAC officers that required investigation.

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

During the year, 17 non-criminal complaints made against the ICAC or its staff were processed. Four of the complaints were received in 2021 and the remaining 13 in 2022.

Of the four complaints received in 2021, three were found unsubstantiated, and the remaining one was still under investigation by the end of the year.

All 13 complaints made against the ICAC or its staff received in 2022 were found unsubstantiated.

**TrAINING AND dEVELOPMENT**

In order to meet the public demand for a clean society, the Training and Development (T&D) Group is committed to providing training and impetus for the development of anti-corruption professionals with the highest level of integrity and competence.

T&D Group is responsible for:

* recruitment of departmental grades staff in OPS;
* provision of training in investigative skills and legal knowledge, etc., for officers of various grades;
* formulation of career development policies, including the Mentoring Programme for young investigating officers; and
* development and maintenance of the Information and Knowledge Management System in OPS.

Training provided for newly recruited Assistant Investigators spans a two‑and‑a‑half year period which is split into three induction courses totalling 24 weeks interspersed with on-the-job training. A 16-week induction course commencing in April 2022 provided 28 recently appointed Assistant Investigators with comprehensive training covering a wide range of subjects, including the application of laws, rules of evidence, investigative skills, computer forensics, financial investigation, interviewing techniques, physical fitness and team building.

To enhance leadership and professional capabilities of serving investigating officers, T&D Group organised Investigators’ Command Course 2022 for newly promoted investigators.

With the implementation of the *Law of the People’s Republic of China on Safeguarding National Security in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region* (NSL) on 30 June 2020, the ICAC bears the responsibility and shall perform its duties in safeguarding national security. In this regard, NSL has been included in the syllabuses of induction courses and examinations in respect of internal regular training programmes and promotion exercises. ICAC officers are required to have a full understanding of the NSL provisions and the significance behind enactment of the law.

OPS held the first-ever joint anti-corruption workshop for Postgraduate Certificate in Laws (PCLL) programme students from the University of Hong Kong, the Chinese University of Hong Kong and the City University of Hong Kong between October and November 2022. Targeting the future pillars of the legal profession, the workshop, highlighting the importance of the rule of law and the joint efforts for combatting graft, reinforced the students’ understanding of Hong Kong’s anti-corruption regime and the ICAC’s law enforcement work.

In December 2022, T&D Group and FAG of OPS jointly conducted Financial Investigation Specialist Training for 30 representatives from OPS, other local law enforcement agencies and regulators, as well as its Southeast Asian counterparts specialising in the fight against corruption and financial crime. Through the nine-day specialist training course focusing on financial data analysis and the trend of illicit fund tracing, participants gained knowledge of financial investigation and its latest development, and had exchanges essential to fostering closer partnership among the agencies.

During the year, a number of in-house courses, seminars and professional knowledge workshops with an accumulated attendance of 2 774 officers were conducted. The training covered a diverse array of subjects including regulatory technology in anti-money laundering, the civil service disciplinary mechanism, obtaining evidence from mobile devices, cyber security, technology crime and forensic investigation as well as safeguarding national security.

Furthermore, 100 officers from OPS benefited from local external courses organised by other institutions. As travel restrictions were in place amid the pandemic, 48 OPS officers attended online training courses provided by overseas institutions and law enforcement agencies. While the pandemic situation has gradually subsided, three OPS officers participated in training organised by overseas law enforcement agencies.

***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 internal control systems.
* 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 early corruption prevention input to government departments and public bodies in respect of their new initiatives, services and systems, and offer concurrent corruption prevention services at key stages including formulation and implementation of major programmes (such as large-scale infrastructure projects) to ensure corruption prevention safeguards are put in place in a timely manner.
* Establish partnership with the regulatory authorities/regime and professional bodies of different industries to enhance the corruption prevention capabilities of the private sector by incorporating corruption prevention and integrity elements in the trades regulations/codes of practice and providing preventive guidelines and training.
* Collaborate with the relevant government departments and organisations for promoting the digitalisation of work processes and public services to enhance their corruption prevention capabilities.

**STRUCTURE**

The Corruption Prevention Department (CPD) is organised into six 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. The Corruption Prevention Advisory Service (CPAS) set up under one of the Assignment Groups is 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 corruption risks in public administration with emphasis on issues which are of public interest or concern, important to people’s livelihood or public safety, and programmes and projects involving substantial amount of public money, covering areas such 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 and corruption-free environment for businesses with a view to achieving a sustainable economic development in Hong Kong.

Deliverables achieved in 2022:

* Completed 68 assignment reports, mainly covering detailed review of corruption risks in specific systems and related practices in government bureaux/departments (B/Ds) and public bodies and recommended preventive measures against corruption.
* Provided tailored advice to government B/Ds and public bodies on 588 occasions, mainly involving the formulation/review of legislation, policies or procedures to ensure corruption prevention safeguards were built in at an early stage.
* Offered advisory service to private sector entities on 1 022 occasions upon request, and handled 711 public enquiries through the CPAS hotline service.
* Provided corruption prevention information and services by leveraging the CPAS Web Portal (recorded over 165 000 visits to the web portal and about 91 500 downloads or views of corruption prevention resources).
* Conducted corruption prevention training for over 13 400 persons from both public and private sectors.
* Published and promulgated corruption prevention guides illustrating the corruption risks and recommended safeguards for reference by different sectors, such as *Corruption Prevention Guide for Banks* and *Corruption Prevention Guide on Works Supervision*. The publications were available for access through the CPAS Web Portal or the Government’s Central Cyber Government Office website.

**PROACTIVE AND EARLY INPUT TO GOVERNMENT’S NEW INITIATIVES**

In recent years, the Government has launched a number of new initiatives, including those to increase the public and private housing supply, drive the development of transport infrastructure, improve the occupational safety of employees and promote the development of innovation and technology, etc. To ensure necessary integrity management and corruption prevention measures are built in the implementation systems from the outset, CPD has adopted a prevention-at-source and interactive strategy by providing early input to the Government and public bodies concerned during the formulation and preparation stages of these initiatives and projects. CPD also follows up these initiatives with detailed reviews to ensure their robust and successful implementation. The following are some examples of this strategy.

***Adoption of “Design-and-Build” Model in Public Housing Projects***

In 2022, the Housing Department piloted a “Design-and-Build” procurement model in appropriate public housing projects to enhance the construction workflow for meeting the increased production target (around 330 000 units) in the coming decade. As suggested in the Chief Executive’s 2022 Policy Address, the Housing Authority would adopt the “Design-and-Build” contract model for the construction of at least half of the flats scheduled for completion in the second five-year period (i.e. 2028-29 to 2032-33) to further improve the speed, efficiency and quality in construction. To ensure that adequate safeguards and controls were in place in the new procurement model, CPD proactively provided early and concurrent corruption prevention advice to the Housing Department at the formulation stage of the relevant procedures and tenders. CPD will continue to offer timely advice to the Housing Department and organise training seminars to its staff, contractors and consultants to ensure integrity in the delivery of the “Design-and-Build” projects.

***Pilot Rehabilitation Programme for Employees Injured at Work***

In September 2022, the Labour Department launched a three-year “Pilot Rehabilitation Programme for Employees Injured at Work” to provide private out-patient rehabilitation treatment services to injured construction workers through the contractor appointed by the Labour Department and the fee for the services are mainly subsidised by the Government. During the planning stage of the Pilot Programme, the Labour Department sought CPD’s early input in developing a robust administration system. CPD had made corruption prevention recommendations regarding the integrity requirements of the service contractor and rehabilitation professionals concerned, the operation of the Pilot Programme and the monitoring mechanism of the Labour Department, etc.

**ISSUES OF PUBLIC CONCERN**

CPD always pays special attention to areas concerning people’s livelihood, public safety, issues of public concern and those involving substantial public money. The corruption prevention work addressing issues of public concern includes:

***Clean Elections***

CPD officers observed the polling and vote-counting processes of the 2022 Chief Executive Election, and noted that the corruption risks in the processes had been reduced after the Government had gradually implemented the recommendations given by CPD after the 2021 Election Committee Subsector Ordinary Elections and the Legislative Council General Election. CPD also recommended corruption prevention practices to the entities responsible for returning Election Committee (EC) ex-officio and nominated members, so as to assist them in returning EC members in a fair, accountable and transparent manner.

***Three-Runway System Project***

In light of the great public concern about the three-runway system (3RS) project which incurred a substantial construction cost of about $140 billion, CPD has been adopting a concurrent corruption prevention strategy since 2015 to provide services to the Airport Authority Hong Kong (AAHK). Apart from conducting assignment studies to review the tendering and contract management procedures of AAHK’s construction projects, covering the site supervision, management of subcontractors, approval of works payment, etc, and assisting AAHK to implement the recommended corruption prevention measures, CPD also organised integrity trainings for AAHK’s staff, consultants and contractors to enhance their corruption prevention capability and awareness. In view of a recent corruption case concerning the 3RS project, CPD has reviewed the relevant procedures and provided AAHK with a number of recommendations to plug the corruption loopholes

***Sample Codes of Conduct for Public Bodies***

Given the growing importance of public bodies’ functions, CPD assisted public bodies in strengthening their system controls, and made recommendations on the probity guidelines for their members and staff. Further to the launch of the updated *Sample Codes of Conduct for Members and Employees of Public Bodies* in 2021, CPD provided advice to public bodies on the adoption of the codes and compiled a set of frequently asked questions on the use of the codes.

***Control of Food Importers and Food Import Licences***

To safeguard food safety and public health, the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD) has put in place a registration scheme for food importers, and takes enforcement actions against food traders’ irregularities. FEHD also implements a pre-entry assurance system for high-risk food (e.g. meat and poultry) to ensure the safety of the imported food. In view of food safety issues and corruption risks inherent in the registration and enforcement processes, CPD reviewed and made corruption prevention recommendations on FEHD’s procedures for the control of food importers and food import licences.

***Pilot Scheme on Using Hotels and Guesthouses as Transitional Housing***

To reduce potential corruption risks involved in the implementation of the Government’s pilot scheme on using hotels and guesthouses as transitional housing, CPD provided the then Transport and Housing Bureau with corruption prevention advice on its monitoring and auditing roles and procedures to strengthen the mechanism.

**CORRUPTION PREVENTION WORK IN PRIVATE SECTOR**

To optimise the efficacy in corruption prevention, CPD continuously identifies the needs of specific industries. The major corruption prevention work conducted in 2022 includes the following:

***Integrity Management System for Construction Industry***

To raise corruption prevention awareness and systematically assist in enhancing corruption prevention capabilities in the construction industry, CPD has encouraged construction companies to adopt Integrity Management System (IMS) which consists of (1) Integrity Policy, (2) Integrity Training and (3) Integrity Risk Management (IRM). In March 2021, the Development Bureau (DEVB) incorporated the first two elements, i.e. Integrity Policy and Integrity Training, into the listing requirements for Government’s approved contractors, suppliers of materials and specialist contractors for public works which involved over 800 construction companies. In April 2022, the Construction Industry Council (CIC) also followed suit and added these two elements as one of the registration requirements of integrity management under the Registered Specialist Trade Contractors Scheme which covered some 8 000 registered contractors and subcontractors.

To encourage construction companies to voluntarily implement IMS and assist their adoption of the Integrity Charter launched in 2021, CPD compiled four IRM toolkits on corporate integrity and governance, staff administration, procurement (quotation exercise) and tendering based on the analysis of previous ICAC cases. The toolkits identified 20 integrity risks and correspondingly made about 100 control measures concerning the relevant work procedures and items for reference by construction companies. A short training video on IRM was also launched to illustrate the use of the IRM toolkits.

In December 2022, DEVB, CIC and CPD enhanced and renamed the Integrity Charter to the Construction Industry Integrity Charter 2.0 and extended it to also cover consulting firms. To encourage and assist construction companies in implementing IRM, CPD would continue to maintain close collaboration with DEVB, CIC and all stakeholders and provide free and tailor-made integrity training and corruption prevention services to enhance integrity and professionalism in the construction industry.

***Corporate Governance for Listed Companies***

Subsequent to CPD’s advice made as early as 2013 to the Hong Kong Exchanges and Clearing Limited (HKEX) requiring the formulation of anti-corruption policies by listed companies, good progress has been made with encouraging results. In 2016, the HKEX required listed companies to disclose anti-corruption information in the Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) Report on a “comply or explain” or “recommended disclosures” basis. Through sustained collaboration with the HKEX, CPD has developed, among others, a guide on anti-corruption programme for listed companies for the latter’s reference. After HKEX’s upgrading of the disclosure obligations to report all ESG key performance indicators (including anti-corruption) to “comply or explain” in 2020, elements in respect of anti-corruption and whistleblowing policies recommended by CPD were also incorporated in the HKEX’s *Corporate Governance Guide for Boards and Directors* published in 2021. In 2022, the HKEX further upgraded the requirement of establishing anti-corruption and whistleblowing policies to a code provision under the *Corporate Governance Code.* In the “Corporate Governance in Focus” webinar hosted by the HKEX, the Director of Corruption Prevention delivered a keynote speech on anti-corruption and whistleblowing policies, and ethical business culture. CPD will continue to partner with the HKEX to strengthen the corruption prevention capabilities and governance of listed companies.

***Corruption Prevention Guide for Banks***

In view of the corruption risks as well as the new regulatory requirements and developments in the banking industry in recent years, CPD collaborated with the Hong Kong Monetary Authority and industry associations to develop a new *Corruption Prevention Guide for Banks* to entrench the integrity culture of the banking sector. The Guide covers topics including anti-bribery legislation, good corporate governance and internal controls, featuring case studies and red flags to enhance the ethical awareness and knowledge of corruption risks for banking practitioners. Recommendations on the anti-corruption policies and control measures are also included to assist banks in establishing and strengthening anti-corruption capabilities in their core operations, such as opening of accounts, processing of banking facility/loan applications, sales process, wealth management, procurement, staff management, etc. Following the publication of the Guide in late 2022, CPD will promote it to the banking sector in 2023 and offer corruption prevention advice to individual banks upon request.

***The Chinese Manufacturers’ Association of Hong Kong***

As one of the most representative industrial associations with over 3 000 member companies in Hong Kong, the Chinese Manufacturers’ Association of Hong Kong (CMA) plays an important role in promoting Hong Kong’s industrial and economic development. Besides organising various promotional activities (e.g. Hong Kong Brands and Products Expo, Hong Kong Food Carnival), the CMA also provides an array of services (e.g. testing and certification services, company secretarial services) and training to its members. CPD has maintained close collaboration with the CMA and offered preventive advice on its core operations, including the procurement process and the operation of the CMA Testing and Certification Laboratories (CMA Testing) to enhance internal control and corruption prevention capabilities. The CPAS under CPD has also forged partnership with the CMA to actively promote anti-corruption information to its member companies through various means including online training, so as to heighten their awareness against corruption and help them reduce the risks of corruption and malpractices in their business.

***Property Management Industry***

CPD continued to work closely with the Property Management Services Authority (PMSA) to assist licensed property management companies (PMC) to establish an IMS. CPD offered input to PMSA’s codes of conduct and related guidelines for licensees, setting out the integrity requirements and guidance in procurement, outsourcing of services, and staff recruitment and management by PMC. In October 2022, CPD and PMSA jointly organised a Continuing Professional Development Seminar on “Ways to Property Management Service Excellence – Professionalism and Integrity” to exchange views on integrity management with over 150 practitioners. CPD also provided corruption prevention advice and training to individual property management companies upon request. CPD will continue to collaborate with PMSA to strengthen the integrity standard and corruption prevention capabilities of the industry.

**EMBRACING TECHNOLOGY TO ENHANCE CORRUPTION PREVENTION**

Digitalisation of work processes and effective adoption of technology can not only improve the efficiency and service quality of the Government, public bodies and private organisations, but also strengthen their anti-corruption capabilities. Riding on the momentum of the e‑Government initiatives launched in recent years, CPD has positioned digitalisation as a key strategy in corruption prevention. Efforts made by CPD to embrace technology in enhancing resilience against corruption are summarised below:

***Digital Corruption Prevention Framework***

Since the 1980s, CPD has been promoting computerisation of work procedures in government departments and public bodies to enhance their corruption prevention capabilities and streamline workflows. To tie in with the Government’s implementation of the Smart Government and Smart City initiatives in recent years, and to support the international anti-corruption organisations’ initiative on the use of innovation and technology to combat corruption, CPD will step up its efforts in promoting and recommending the use of innovation and technology for the anti-corruption cause. Upon completion of a study on the enhancement of corruption prevention through digitalisation, CPD has developed a Digital Corruption Prevention Framework (DCPF). CPD will adopt DCPF in the assignment studies to be conducted for government departments and public bodies, with a view to assisting government departments and public bodies more comprehensively, systematically and effectively in strengthening their corruption prevention capabilities by leveraging the advantages of digitalisation and information technology.

***Digital Works Supervision System***

Manual process is usually adopted for handling the large amount of data and paper records involved in various procedures and activities of construction projects. Such an inefficient practice not only hampers effective supervision, but also increases the risks of corruption and malpractices. To reduce these risks, CPD has been encouraging the construction industry to make use of technology in works supervision and providing corruption prevention advice to the DEVB in the implementation of the Digital Works Supervision System (DWSS). CPD has also issued a *Corruption Prevention Guide On Works Supervision* to recommend the private sector (e.g. developers, contractors, consultants) to adopt the “SMART” principles (i.e. Simplicity, Mobility, Accountability, Robustness and Transparency) in developing DWSS and adopt adequate control measures in the supervision system (e.g. digitalisation of workflows and automation of site supervision processes).

***Digital Works Supervision System for Railway Projects***

In view of the impending commencement of a number of new railway projects, the MTR Corporation Limited (MTRCL) is updating and enhancing its digital works supervision system which was introduced a few years ago. CPD has advised MTRCL to strengthen the system control functions in order to prevent malpractices in site supervision, and will offer further advice to MTRCL during its drafting of the operational guidelines for the new system to ensure the effective use of the recommended control functions.

***Government Land Short Term Tenancy Information System***

To enhance the monitoring and management of short term tenancies of government land, the Lands Department plans to develop a new Tenancy Information System featuring a more comprehensive, accurate and complete database as compared with the existing one, and containing inspection results, nature of non-compliances and corresponding regulatory actions. CPD has recommended adding control functions in the new system to facilitate the monitoring of work progress and ensure the integrity of data.

**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 mass and new media publicity and face-to-face education.
* Leverage strategic partnership with different sectors in mapping out and executing these programmes.

**Structure**

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

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Director of Community Relations | | | |
|  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |
| Division 1 | | Division 2 | |
| * Publicise anti-corruption messages through the mass and new media * Publicise ICAC’s latest anti-corruption work, enhance the Commission’s transparency and keep the public abreast of its anti-corruption initiatives through news media platforms * Promote business ethics and preventive education in different professions, trades and industries | | * Provide face-to-face preventive education to different segments of the community including the Government and public bodies, business sector, educational institutions, district and non-profit making organisations, as well as stakeholders of public elections * Reach out to the public to enlist their support for ICAC's work | |
| * Promote integrity and positive values among young people * Map out long term strategies with reference to research and surveys | | * Receive corruption complaints and enquiries from the public | |

CRD has established seven Regional Offices (ROs) in the territory to conduct education work for different sectors of the community. To address the needs of different targets, CRD integrated the use of face-to-face and online platforms to augment the effectiveness of its publicity and education programmes.

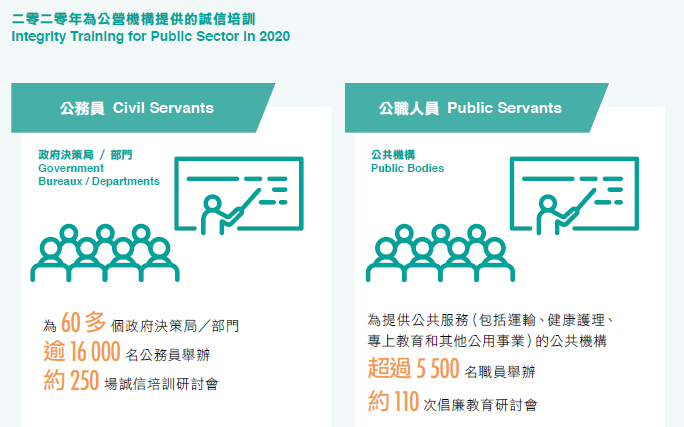
ROs are situated at focal locations in the community which are convenient for the public to report corruption and make enquiries. To encourage members of the public to come forward to report corruption, messages aiming at dispelling misunderstanding and addressing common public concern about lodging corruption complaints were promulgated through online and offline publicity arranged by CRD. In the year, 14% of the non-election related corruption complaints lodged with ICAC were received by ROs. During the year, ROs also handled over 1 600 enquiries.

The detailed information of CRD’s structure and ROs is at Appendices 1 and 9 respectively.

**PUBLIC SECTOR**

CRD continued to promote integrity management in the Government and public bodies to entrench probity culture in the public sector through the following major initiatives:

* organised briefings on anti-corruption law and work of ICAC to the Politically Appointed Officials to tie in with the re-organisation of the HKSAR Government structure;
* incorporated ICAC briefing sessions into the Civil Service College’s flagship leadership development programmes and the Induction Programme for Civil Service New Recruits;
* joined hands with the Civil Service Bureau to assist Ethics Officers of government bureaux/departments (B/Ds) under the Ethical Leadership Programme to promote probity culture across the civil service, including organising a thematic workshop on prudent financial management and the offence of Misconduct in Public Office (MIPO) for Ethics Officers and also MIPO seminars for all ranks of civil servants during the year;
* promoted integrity management to public bodies and also encouraged them to extensively use ICAC’s preventive education services and resources, including the [thematic website](https://www.icac.org.hk/icac/pb/en/index.html), e-learning modules, training videos, animations, integrity promotion package, etc. since the launch of the Integrity Promotion Campaign for Public Bodies; and
* boosted the usage of the e-learning courses for civil servants and public bodies’ employees and members of their governing bodies respectively, as well as encouraged the adoption of an integrity training cycle.



**Integrity Training for Public Sector in 2022**

Public Servants

Civil Servants

About 560 integrity training seminars for over 27 000 civil servants from over 60 government B/Ds

Around 190 preventive education seminars for over 13 000 employees of public bodies providing public services in transportation, health care, tertiary education and other public utilities

**Business sector**

Established under the auspices of CRD and steered by 10 major chambers of commerce in Hong Kong, the [Hong Kong Business Ethics Development Centre (HKBEDC)](https://hkbedc.icac.hk/en) partners with the business community to promote business and professional ethics as the first line of defence against corruption.

Despite the volatile business environment, HKBEDC remained steadfast in pursuing its various educational and publicity initiatives. Under the Ethics Promotion Programme for the Banking Industry launched in the year, HKBEDC developed new educational materials for banking practitioners and reinvigorated the exchanges with members of the Corruption Prevention Network for Banks. A practical guide for the banking industry and a publicity leaflet for bank clients were produced for promulgation to all banks.

Considering the high popularity of online training in the business sector, HKBEDC continued to organise webinars on its [BEDC Channel](https://hkbedc.icac.hk/en/services/bedc_channel). During the year, 13 webinars were organised for different targets including directors of listed companies, SME operators, construction works supervisors, insurance intermediaries, etc.

Reached



Corruption Prevention and Education Services for Business Sector in 2022

Over 4 400

Over

78 000

Business Organisations Business Practitioners and

Professionals

**Youth and Moral Education**

CRD continued to give top priority in nurturing the core value of integrity amongst the younger generation. Messages of the importance of rule of law, law-abidingness, honesty, responsibilities, etc. were incorporated into the regular integrity promotion and education programmes tailored for young people of different developmental stages.

For the kindergarten and primary levels, promotion of the “[Reading for Integrity” Project](http://www.me.icac.hk/content/picturebook) initiated in 2019-20 academic year continued through the launch of online parent-child reading and learning activities, as well as a school participation scheme through which teachers were encouraged to make use of the picture books in organising moral education and reading activities for students, with a view to fostering their positive values and attitudes.

CRD launched the [i Junior Programme for Primary Schools](http://www.me.icac.hk/icac/ijunior) with the theme of honesty for 2022-23 academic year. Through organising a student participation scheme and producing a new animation-based teaching package, primary school teachers were provided with resources to implement school-based values education curriculum inside and beyond the classroom.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| i Junior小學德育計劃 | Student Participation Scheme  Reached about **240** primary schools and over **120 000** students reached in |
|  | | |

Training workshops were also organised for i Junior Leaders to enhance their understanding of ICAC and develop their teamwork, communication and facilitation skills.

CRD continued to engage senior secondary and tertiary students to promote integrity messages to their peers through creative means. Around 700 students joining the [iTeen Leadership Programme](https://me.icac.hk/new/5538/#/) and [ICAC Ambassador Programme](https://me.icac.hk/moral-activity/activity/index_id_5.html) had organised around 180 activities, spreading probity messages to over 43 800 fellow schoolmates in the 2021-22 academic year. Moreover, job shadowing and voluntary summer helper programmes were respectively offered for selected iTeen Leaders and ICAC Ambassadors to gain first-hand experiences in the fight against corruption. To further enhance young people’s understanding on the rule of law and the work of ICAC, CRD extended the iPLUS Youth Development Programme from iTeen Leaders to voluntary summer helpers, with visit programmes as well as a training camp organised for them.

Besides, [interactive drama performances](https://me.icac.hk/moral-activity/activity/index_id_27.html) as well as talks on personal ethics and anti-corruption laws were arranged for secondary and tertiary students to instil integrity and probity messages.



**Youth and Moral Education Activities**

**in 2021-22 Academic Year**

Secondary and Tertiary Students

45 000

Reaching over

**PASS ON THE CORE VALUE**

**OF INTEGRITY**

CRD continued to publish [ICAC Periodical](https://me.icac.hk/bookshelf/topsee/index.html) and upload moral education materials onto the [Moral Education website](http://www.me.icac.hk/) to render support to educators.

**District Organisations**

Riding on the momentum of the “All for Integrity” territory-wide programme launched in 2015, CRD organised a three-day experiential exhibition under the theme of “Journey for Integrity” at Tai Kwun and guided tours in 18 districts to fortify public support in sustaining a clean society together with ICAC. To amplify the publicity mileage, a [self-guided city walks online platform](https://integritywalks.hk) tracing the footprints of the city’s anti-corruption efforts through meticulously curated routes of about 50 attractions across the territory was launched. CRD also mobilised community groups to join ICAC Open Day which showcased Hong Kong’s anti-graft achievements. Through these activities, CRD reached out to people from different strata of the society and of diverse race.

**Community Engagement**

**SECURED THE SUPPORT OF OVER**

**CO-ORGANISERS AND**

**ASSISTING ORGANISATIONS**

**THROUGH A SERIES OF ACTIVITIES**

**ORGANISATIONS**

1500

**PEOPLE AND**

603 000

**REACHED OUT TO ABOUT**

700

**ICAC Club**

The year 2022 marked the 25th anniversary of [ICAC Club](https://www.icac.org.hk/icac/club/en/index.html) which signified the long-standing partnership between ICAC and 3 000 Club members who provided over 74 000 hours of various voluntary services to the Commission. A [thematic website](https://www.icac.org.hk/icac/club/25a/en/) and a series of online and offline activities, including ICAC Club Mentoring Programme involving retired ICAC officers serving as mentors for young Club members, were launched in the year. At the ICAC Club’s 25th anniversary award presentation ceremony, members were commended for their dedication to assist ICAC in spreading anti-corruption messages. To sustain the culture of integrity among the youngsters, ICAC Club continued to engage its Youth Chapter members by tapping their creativity and talents in planning and organising various anti-corruption activities. Training activities such as workshops on handicraft, video production and editing, as well as orientation programmes with experiential elements were arranged for Club members to enhance their participation and sense of belonging. Moreover, CRD maintained a dedicated website and a Facebook closed group, and published [newsletters](https://www.icac.org.hk/icac/club/en/p2.html) regularly to maintain close ties with Club members and keep them abreast of latest anti-corruption work.

**Building Management**

ICAC continued to adopt a proactive strategy in promoting clean building management to flat owners and building management bodies (BMBs) such as owners’ corporations, owners’ committees, etc. in collaboration with counterparts including the Home Affairs Department, Urban Renewal Authority, etc.

This year, CRD reached out to over 3 700 people from around 690 BMBs through talks, seminars, visits, etc. Besides, more than 14 600 counts of people were reached through various publicity drives including poster exhibitions, quizzes, publicity pamphlets, feature articles, etc. CRD also provided the latest corruption prevention education information for flat owners, BMBs and property management companies through the Clean Building Management Enquiry Hotline and a [dedicated website](https://bm.icac.hk/en/home/introduction.aspx).

In view of the new licensing regime for the property management industry, and with support of the Property Management Services Authority, CRD continued to implement the multi-year Professional Property Management with Integrity Programme. During the year, efforts were stepped up to promote professional ethics to organisations and practitioners in the industry. Anti-corruption messages were disseminated to property management staff at all levels through talks, posters and leaflets, while integrity training was delivered to executives through continuing professional development programmes of professional bodies, as well as to students undertaking property management programmes at tertiary education institutions and vocational schools.

**Clean Elections**

Based on the experience in the Election Committee Subsector Ordinary Elections and Legislative Council General Election held in 2021 under the improved electoral system, CRD adopted a tailor-made education and publicity strategy for different stakeholders of the 2022 Chief Executive Election to ensure that the election was conducted fairly, openly and honestly, and appeal to the public for upholding a clean election culture with ICAC.

To ensure the candidates and their supporting teams were timely informed of the legal requirements so as to avoid inadvertent breach of law in their electioneering activities, CRD took proactive actions to contact persons who had publicly declared their intention to run for the election before the nomination period for introducing ICAC’s education and publicity services as well as reference materials on clean elections. As soon as the candidate set up his election campaign office, a briefing was arranged for his election agent and members of the office to explain the Elections (Corrupt and Illegal Conduct) Ordinance with practical reminders. By means of leaflets, newspaper features and online publicity, CRD enlisted support from members of the Election Committee and related specified bodies for upholding clean elections and reminded them of relevant legal requirements. A [dedicated website](https://www.icac.org.hk/en/ce/index.html) was set up to provide updated information on clean elections and an enquiry hotline was in operation throughout the election period.

Besides, CRD carried out education and publicity activities for the 2022 Legislative Council Election Committee Constituency By-election and 2023 Rural Representative Election to be held in early 2023. Apart from briefings, clean election messages were disseminated through the information booklets for candidates, leaflets, posters, newspapers, radio broadcast, online platforms and publicity facilities on public transport.

**Media Publicity**

CRD continued to use multimedia platforms to enlist public support and publicise integrity messages to all walks of life. A [new corporate Announcement in Public Interest](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fnaPcGYwJ_A) (API) campaign, featuring the core values of concentration and persistence of ICAC officers and the unwavering commitment of ICAC to safeguarding the probity culture of Hong Kong, was rolled out in the year and widely broadcast on television, radio and other platforms. The television drama series [*ICAC Investigators 2022*](https://www.icac.org.hk/icac/drama2022/index.html) was broadcast on TVB Jade Channel and its online platform and attracted a viewership of over 5.34 million.



**Multi-media Platforms to Promote Anti-corruption Messages**

Over 5.1 million aggregate visits to the ICAC and its partners’ online platforms

On the new media front, CRD continued to enhance its endeavours to promote anti-corruption messages through various online platforms. During the year, CRD stepped up effort to raise public awareness about the holistic anti-corruption work of ICAC through the new [“Hong Kong ICAC” Facebook fanpage](https://www.facebook.com/hongkongicac/) which was rebranded from the activity-based “All for Integrity” Facebook page, as well as the newly launched [“Hong Kong ICAC” Instagram official account](https://www.instagram.com/hongkongicac/). CRD also interacted with youngsters through the [“Greedy Kin” Instagram account](https://www.instagram.com/greedy_kin/), [e-comics](https://iteencamp.icac.hk/comic), etc. with a view to instilling positive values among them.

**Communications and Media Relations**

The Communications and Media Relations Office is responsible for the formulation of media strategies and implements the Commission’s media plans. Through maintaining effective communications and close rapport with the media, the Office strives to publicise ICAC’s latest anti-corruption work, enhance the Commission’s transparency and keep the public abreast of its anti-corruption initiatives through news media platforms.

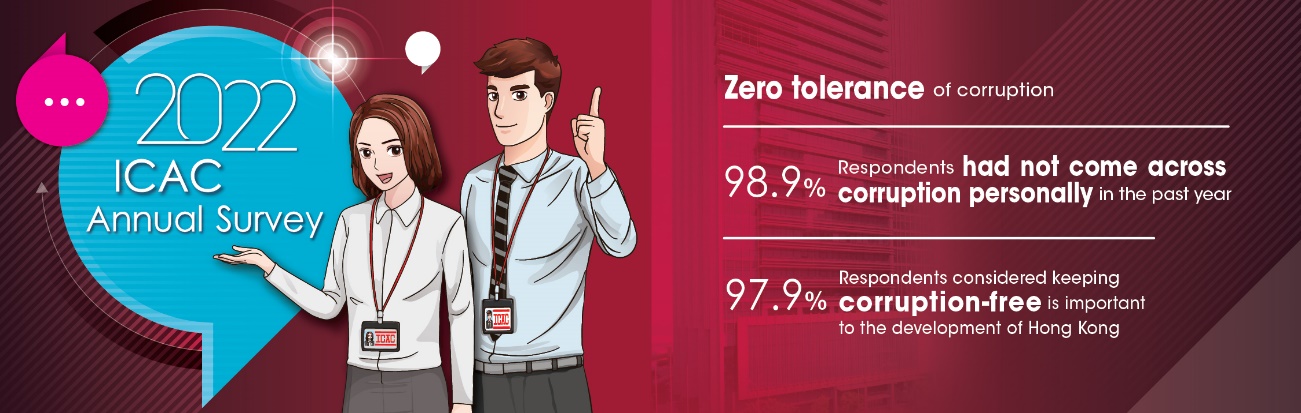
During the year, the Office issued a total of 249 press releases to promulgate ICAC’s major activities, operations, court cases and preventive education initiatives. Timely responses were delivered to the news media to address issues of concern.

Separately, the Office arranged a total of 23 press briefings and interviews for various anti-corruption initiatives, including ICAC Commissioner’s year-end press briefing, ICAC Open Day, Financial Investigation Specialist Training for the anti-corruption agencies in Southeast Asian countries, as well as the launch of *Property Management Corruption Prevention Red Flags* for property management industry and “Integrity Risk Management” system for the construction sector. In addition, the Office regularly collaborated with local newspapers and online news media to run feature articles and publicity campaigns for various activities and projects, including the TV drama series *ICAC Investigators 2022*, “Journey for Integrity” flagship event and i Junior Programme for Primary Schools.

**ICAC Annual Survey**

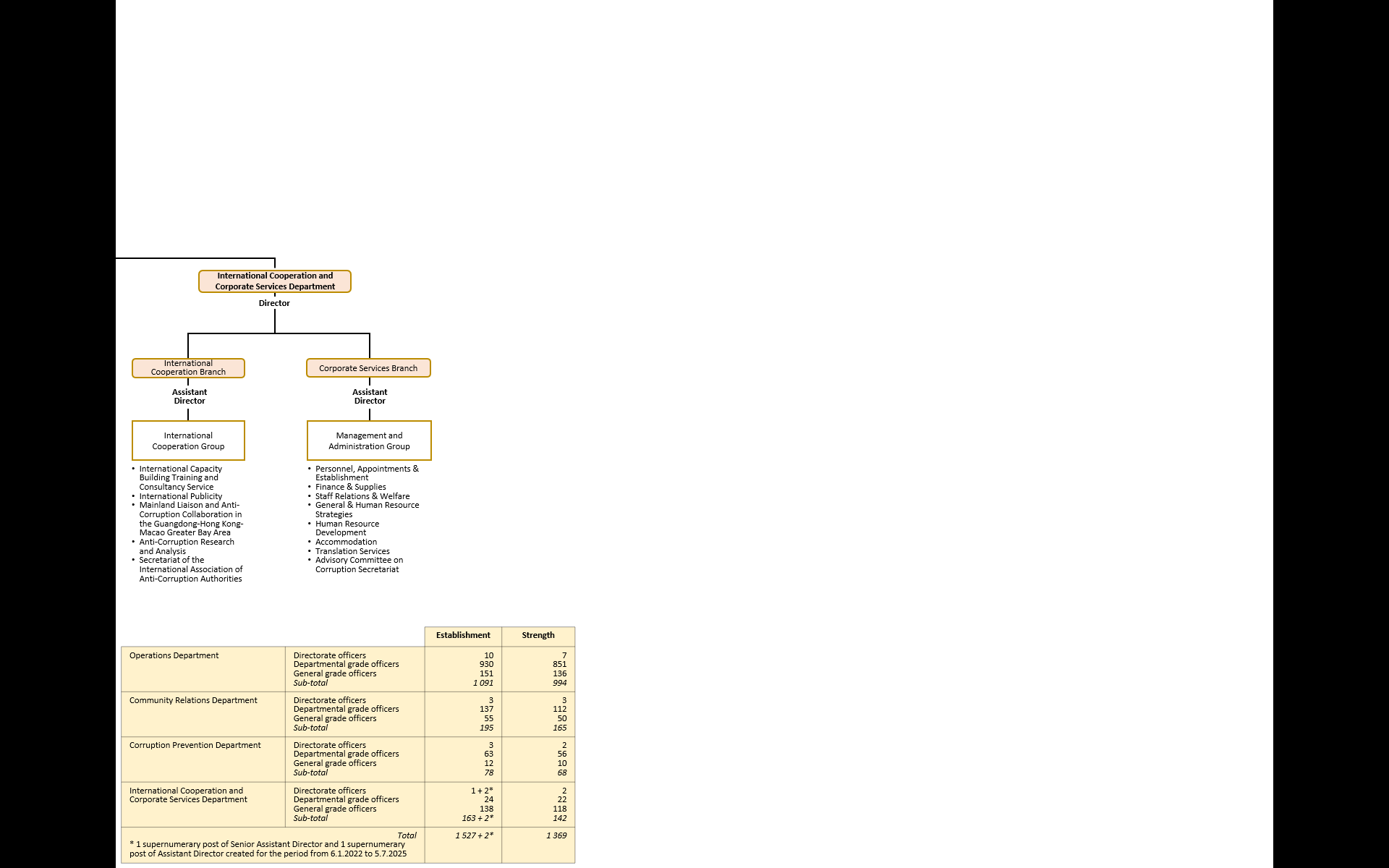
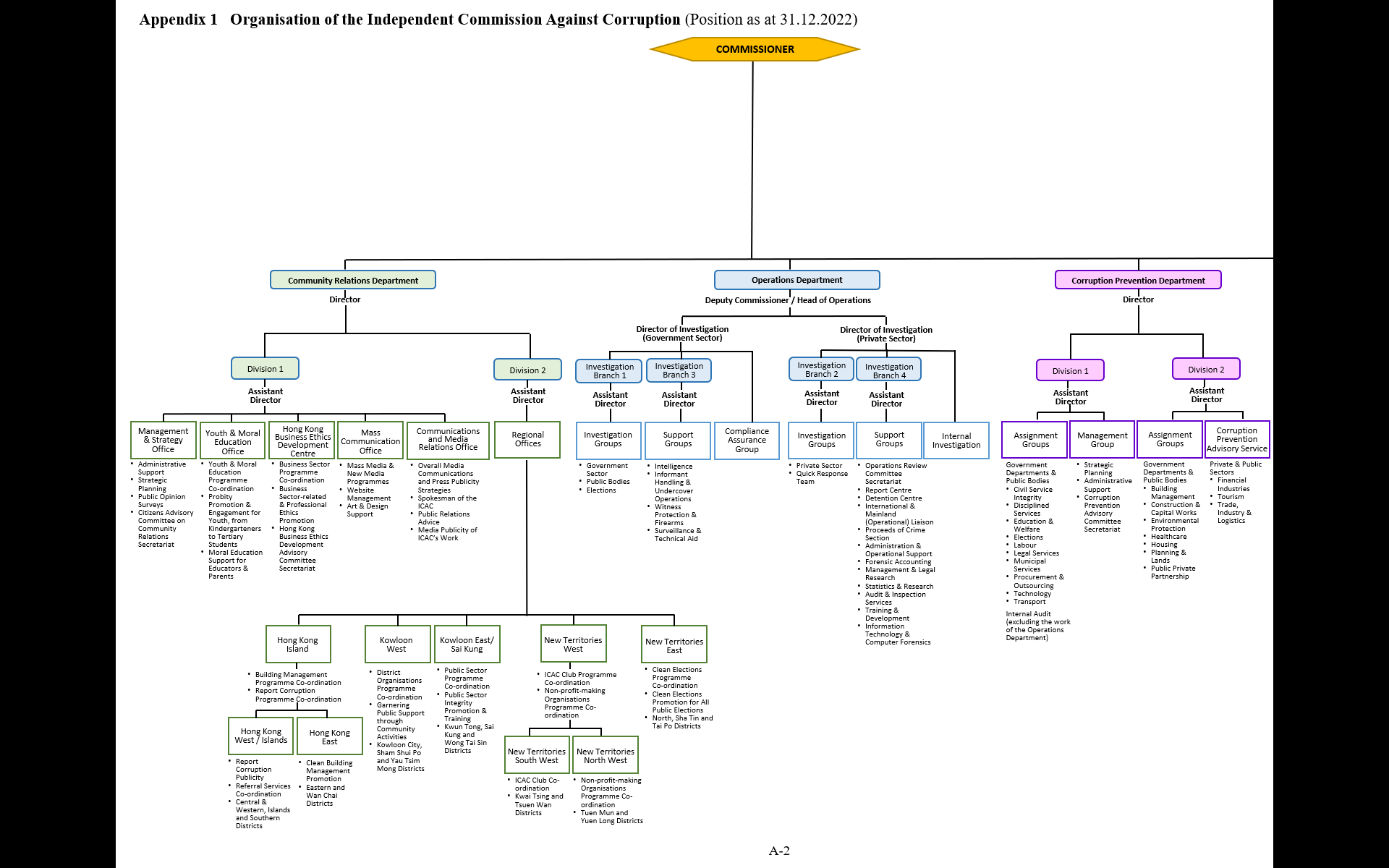
CRD keeps on monitoring the community’s attitude towards a corruption-free society and their knowledge about corruption through engaging independent polling agencies to conduct opinion surveys on an annual basis. In the 2022 face-to-face household survey, 1 761 citizens aged between 15 and 74 were interviewed.

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 given by respondents of the survey was 0.5. Almost all respondents (97.9%) considered that keeping a corruption-free society is important to the overall development of Hong Kong. The survey also showed that experience of corruption was very uncommon in Hong Kong.



**Appendices**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 1 | Organisation of the Independent Commission Against Corruption |  |
| 2 | Membership Lists of Advisory Committees |  |
| 3 | Progress of Ongoing Investigations as at the End of December 2022 (Excluding Election Cases) |  |
| 4 | Number of Persons Prosecuted or Cautioned from 2013 to 2022 |  |
| 5 | Number of Persons Prosecuted and Cautioned for Corruption and Related Offences (Excluding Election Cases) in 2022 (Classified by Government Bureaux, Departments and Others) |  |
| 6 | Number of Persons Prosecuted in 2022 (Excluding Election Cases) (Classified by Offences) |  |
| 7 | Number of Persons Prosecuted for Offences Connected with or Facilitated by Corruption and Specified Offences in 2022 (Classified by Types of Offences) |  |
| 8 | Non-Corruption Referrals Made to Government Bureaux, Departments and Public Bodies as at the End of December 2022 |  |
| 9 | ICAC Regional Offices |  |



**Appendix 2 Membership Lists of Advisory Committees**

**(Position as at 31.12.2022)**

**Advisory Committee on Corruption**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| The Hon Martin LIAO Cheung-kong, GBS, JP | (Chairman) |
| Ms AU King-chi, GBS, JP |  |
| The Hon CHAN Hak-kan, SBS, JP |  |
| Ms Irene CHOW Man-ling |  |
| Mr Victor LAM Hoi Cheung, JP |  |
| Ms Cecilia LEE Sau Wai, JP |  |
| Mr Abraham SHEK Lai-him, GBS, JP |  |
| 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**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| The Hon Bernard Charnwut CHAN, GBM, GBS, JP | (Chairman) |
| The Hon Ronick CHAN Chun-ying, JP |  |
| Dr Emily CHAN Po-shan |  |
| Ms Clara Chan Yuen-shan, MH |  |
| Dr Aron Hari HARILELA, BBS, JP |  |
| Prof David HUI Shu-cheong, BBS, JP |  |
| Mr Johnson KONG Chi-how |  |
| Mr Richard Kendall LANCASTER |  |
| Mr Felix LI Kwok-hing |  |
| Prof LI Pang-kwong, BBS, JP |  |
| Ms Melissa Kaye PANG, BBS, MH, JP |  |
| Dr Kelvin WONG Tin-yau, SBS, 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) |
| Miss Mabel CHAN Mei-bo |  |
| Ms Kuby CHAN Yin-hung |  |
| Prof Emily CHAN Ying-yang |  |
| Mr Sunny CHEUNG Yiu-tong |  |
| Mr Alex CHU Wing-yiu |  |
| The Hon Doreen KONG Yuk-foon |  |
| Dr Stephen LAI Yuk-fai, JP |  |
| Ms Carrie Lau Ka Wai |  |
| Mr Albert SU Yau-on, MH, JP |  |
| Mr Winson WOO Lap-kee |  |
| 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 Simon Ho Shun-man | (Chairman) |
| Mr Mac CHAN Ho-ting |  |
| Ms Catalina CHAN Yuen-ling | |  |
| Mr CHU Tsz-wing |  |
| Prof Anthony FUNG Ying-him, JP |  |
| Mr Chris IP Ngo-tung, BBS, JP |  |
| Ms Pinky LAU Pik-yiu |  |
| Mr James MOK Hon-fai |  |
| Prof Joshua Mok Ka-ho |  |
| Mr Webster NG Kam-wah, JP |  |
| Mr Victor PANG Wing-seng, MH |  |
| Dr Rocky TUNG Yat-ngok |  |
| Ms Gigi WONG Ching-chi |  |
| Dr James Wong Kong-tin, BBS, JP |  |
| Mr WONG Wai-kit, MH |  |
| Ms Jenny YUNG Ching-yi |  |
| Commissioner, Independent Commission Against Corruption | (ex officio) |

***Co-opted Members***

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Dr Esther CHO Yin-nei |  |
| Mr KWONG Ka-shi |  |
| Ms Eleanor LI Po-yee |  |
| Mr Anthony SO Chun-hin |  |
| Ms Ashley TSE Hiu-hung |  |
| Mr Eddie KWOK Ming-lok | (ex officio) |
| Ms Isabella SO Kwok-yun | (ex officio) |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Appendix 3** | **Progress of Ongoing Investigations as at the End of December 2022**  **(Excluding Election Cases)** |
|  |  |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Time spent | Number of cases | Percentage of total cases |
|  |  |  |
| Less than 6 months | 565 | 61.9% |
| 6 months to less than 1 year | 193 | 21.1% |
| 1 year to less than 2 years | 101 | 11.1% |
| 2 years or more | 54 | 5.9% |
| **Total** | **913** | **100%** |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Appendix 4** | **Number of Persons Prosecuted or Cautioned from 2013 to 2022** |

Number of

Persons

Persons Prosecuted

Persons Cautioned

300

250

200

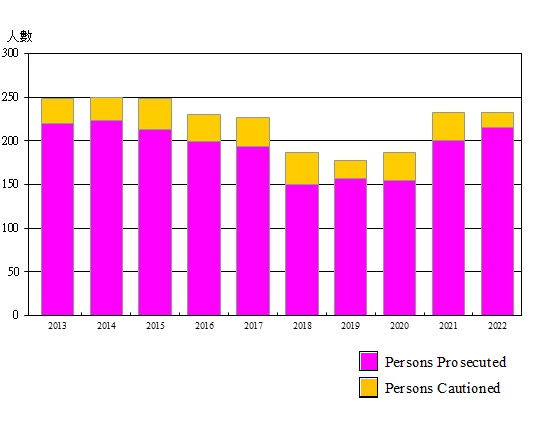
150

100

50

0

2013 2014 2015 2016 2017 2018 2019 2020 2021 2022



|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Appendix 5** | **Number of Persons Prosecuted and Cautioned for Corruption and Related Offences (Excluding Election Cases[[4]](#footnote-4)) in 2022[[5]](#footnote-5)**  **(Classified by Government Bureaux, Departments and Others)** |

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Prosecution** | | | | **Caution** |
| **Pending** | **Convicted** | **Acquitted** | **Total** |
| **Government Bureaux and Departments** | | | | | |
| Food and Environmental Hygiene Department | 8 | 0 | 0 | **8** | **0** |
| Hong Kong Police Force | 5 | 1 | 0 | **6** | **0** |
| Architectural Services Department | 1 | 0 | 0 | **1** | **0** |
| Correctional Services Department | 0 | 1 | 0 | **1** | **0** |
| Hong Kong Customs and Excise Department | 1 | 0 | 0 | **1** | **1** |
| Electrical and Mechanical Services Department | 1 | 0 | 0 | **1** | **0** |
| Housing Department | 1 | 0 | 0 | **1** | **0** |
| Water Supplies Department | 0 | 1 | 0 | **1** | **0** |
| Environmental Protection Department | 0 | 0 | 0 | **0** | **1** |
| Government Logistics Department | 0 | 0 | 0 | **0** | **1** |
| **Others** | | | | | |
| Private Sector | 131 | 32 | 0 | **166[[6]](#footnote-6)** | **12** |
| Public Bodies[[7]](#footnote-7) | 3 | 0 | 0 | **3** | **1** |
| Private Individuals (concerning Government Bureaux or Departments)[[8]](#footnote-8) | 11 | 1 | 0 | **12** | **0** |
| Private Individuals (concerning Public Bodies4) | 3 | 0 | 0 | **3** | **0** |
| **Total** | **165** | **36** | **0** | **204** | **16** |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Appendix 6** | **Number of Persons Prosecuted in 2022[[9]](#footnote-9)**  **(Excluding Election Cases[[10]](#footnote-10))**  **(Classified by Offences)** |

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Types of Offences** | **Government Bureaux or Departments** | **Private Individuals (concerning Government Bureaux, Departments or Public Bodies)[[11]](#footnote-11)** | **Public Bodies[[12]](#footnote-12)** | **Private Sector** | **Total** |
| **Soliciting or Accepting** | | | | | |
| s.3 Cap 201[[13]](#footnote-13) | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | **1** |
| s.4(2) Cap 201 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | **1** |
| s.9(1) Cap 201 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 44 | **44** |
| **Offering** | | | | | |
| s.4(1) Cap 201 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 0 | **3** |
| s.8(1) Cap 201 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | **2** |
| s.9(2) Cap 201 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 9 | **9** |
| **Agent using document to deceive principal** | | | | | |
| s.9(3) Cap 201 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 5 | **8** |
| **Possession of unexplained property** | | | | | |
| s.10(1)(a) Cap 201 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 2 |
| **Falsely pretending to be an officer, etc.** | | | | | |
| s.13C Cap 204[[14]](#footnote-14) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | **1** |
| **Offences connected with or facilitated by corruption and specified offences[[15]](#footnote-15)** | | | | | |
| Offences described in  s.10(2)(a) Cap 204 | 14 | 3 | 1 | 15 | **33** |
| Offences under  s.10(5) Cap 204 | 2 | 6 | 0 | 92 | **100** |
| **Total** | **20** | **15** | **3** | **166** | **204** |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Appendix 7** | **Number of Persons Prosecuted for Offences Connected with or Facilitated by Corruption and Specified Offences[[16]](#footnote-16) in 2022[[17]](#footnote-17) (Classified by Types of Offences)** |

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Types of Offences** | **Government**  **Bureaux or**  **Departments** | **Private Individuals**  **(concerning**  **Government Bureaux, Departments or Public Bodies)[[18]](#footnote-18)** | **Public Bodies[[19]](#footnote-19)** | **Private**  **Sector** | **Total** |
| **Theft Ordinance (Cap 210)** | | | | | |
| Deception offences | 2 | 6 | 0 | 87 | **95** |
| Theft | 0 | 0 | 0 | 4 | **4** |
| **Crimes Ordinance (Cap 200)** | | | | | |
| Copying / Using a false instrument | 0 | 0 | 0 | 5 | **5** |
| Forgery | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | **2** |
| **Gambling Ordinance (Cap 148)** | | | | | |
| Betting with a bookmaker | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | **1** |
| Promoting or facilitating bookmaking | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | **1** |
| Bookmaking | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | **1** |
| **Prisons Ordinance (Cap 234)** | | | | | |
| Supplying unauthorized articles to prisoners | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | **1** |
| **Dangerous Drugs Ordinance (Cap 134)** | | | | | |
| Divan keeping | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | **1** |
| **Organized and Serious Crimes Ordinance (Cap 455)** | | | | | |
| Dealing with property known or believed to represent proceeds of indictable offence | 0 | 0 | 0 | 8 | **8** |
| **Common Law** | | | | | |
| Misconduct in Public Office | 12 | 0 | 1 | 0 | **13** |
| Perverting the Course of Public Justice | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | **1** |
| **Total** | **16** | **9** | **1** | **107** | **133** |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Appendix 8** | **Non-Corruption Referrals Made to Government Bureaux, Departments and Public Bodies as** **at the End of December 2022[[20]](#footnote-20)** | |
|  | | **Number of referrals** | |
|
| **Government Bureaux and Departments** | | | |
| Hong Kong Police Force | | 147 | |
| Inland Revenue Department | | 30 | |
| Lands Department | | 16 | |
| Housing Department | | 13 | |
| Social Welfare Department | | 11 | |
| Education Bureau | | 8 | |
| Immigration Department | | 7 | |
| Hong Kong Customs and Excise Department | | 7 | |
| Buildings Department | | 6 | |
| Transport Department | | 6 | |
| Home Affairs Department | | 5 | |
| Labour Department | | 5 | |
| Leisure and Cultural Services Department | | 5 | |
| Fire Services Department | | 4 | |
| Auxiliary Medical Service | | 4 | |
| Department of Health | | 4 | |
| Hongkong Post | | 4 | |
| Other Government Departments | | 28 | |
| ***Subtotal*** | | **310** | |
| **Public Bodies** | | | |
| The Hong Kong Mortgage Corporation Limited | | 11 | |
| Securities and Futures Commission | | 8 | |
| Other Public Bodies | | 11 | |
| ***Subtotal*** | | **30** | |
| ***Total*** | | **340** | |

**Appendix 9 ICAC Regional Offices**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Hong Kong Island** | **Districts** |
|  |  |
| **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 |
| **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 |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **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 East**  G06 - G13, G/F  Sha Tin 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 |
| **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) |   **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) | | Tuen Mun  Yuen Long  Kwai Tsing  Tsuen Wan |

**Reports of**

**ICAC Advisory Committees**

**2022**

**Advisory Committee on Corruption**

**ANNUAL REPORT 2022**

**TO THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

The Chief Executive the Honourable Mr John LEE Ka-chiu,

**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 terms of reference and membership of ACOC in 2022 are at **Annexes A** and **B** respectively. 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 ACOC together with other appointed members. At the end of 2022, the Hon CHAN Hak-kan and Mr Abraham SHEK Lai-him retired from ACOC, whilst new members, the Hon CHAN Yung and Dr the Hon LO Wai-kwok joined the Committee in 2023.

**WORK OF THE COMMITTEE**

Despite the tremendous impact arising from the coronavirus pandemic in 2022, the ICAC remained relentless and committed to achieving its anti-corruption mission through law enforcement, corruption prevention and community education. Facing the challenges together with the ICAC, ACOC continued to ensure the Commission’s effectiveness in discharging its duties in the anti-corruption cause. During the year, ACOC held two meetings to review the corruption situation in Hong Kong and the work of the ICAC presented by the heads of the four ICAC departments.

***Holistic Anti-Corruption Strategy***

ACOC noted that Hong Kong remained a clean society with a very low level of corruption. The *ICAC Annual Survey 2022* showed that almost all (98.9%) of the respondents had not come across corruption personally in the past 12 months.

The ICAC has earned international acclaim for the high efficacy of its anti-corruption work. Hong Kong continued to be ranked as one of the cleanest places in the world as indicated in the *2022 Corruption Perceptions Index* of the Transparency International, the “Bribery and corruption do not exist” indicator in the *World Competitiveness Yearbook 2022* released by the International Institute for Management Development as well as the “Absence of Corruption” factor in the *Rule of Law Index 2022* of the World Justice Project. The hard-earned international recognition was a clear evidence of ICAC’s effective work strategy, and also the robust anti‑corruption regime and staunch rule of law in Hong Kong.

In 2022, the ICAC received a total of 1 835 corruption complaints (excluding election complaints), representing a 19% decrease when compared to 2021. ACOC noted that the decrease in corruption complaints was attributed to the slowdown in economic activities amid the fifth wave of the pandemic in early 2022. Concerning the public sector, despite isolated cases of civil servants being investigated or prosecuted for corruption offences, the civil service remained clean and honest. ACOC understood the high public expectation on the integrity of civil servants, and therefore supported the ICAC to incorporate its briefing sessions into the Civil Service College’s flagship leadership development programmes and the Induction Programme for Civil Service New Recruits, and promote probity culture across the civil service through thematic workshops and seminars of the Ethical Leadership Programme co-organised with the Civil Service Bureau.

Regarding the private sector, ACOC was concerned about the corruption in the building management industry, the construction industry and the finance and insurance industry; and noticed that the ICAC has swiftly adopted a holistic strategy through law enforcement, prevention and education to strengthen the anti-corruption capabilities of the industries and sustain Hong Kong’s clean and fair business environment. ACOC noted that the ICAC mounted a large-scale operation targeting property management and building renovation in early January 2023, which successfully neutralised a sophisticated corrupt syndicate. The ICAC maintained close liaison with stakeholders such as the Property Management Services Authority (PMSA) and the Urban Renewal Authority, and offered input to PMSA’s codes of conduct and related guidelines for licensees. ACOC noticed that the ICAC conducted an operation against corruption crimes in the Three-runway System Project of the Hong Kong International Airport, introduced the Integrity Management System and Construction Industry Integrity Charter 2.0, and compiled toolkits and a short training video on Integrity Risk Management to assist the construction industry in enhancing its corruption prevention capabilities. The ICAC also strengthened collaboration with financial regulators in its enforcement work, and worked with the Hong Kong Monetary Authority and industry associations to publish a new *Corruption Prevention Guide for Banks* to entrench the integrity culture of the banking sector.

ACOC endorsed the ICAC in strengthening its publicity work to enlist the support from the general public and arouse the society’s awareness on anti-corruption. These publicity work and signature events included legislators’ visit to the ICAC, “Journey for Integrity” experimental exhibition cum guided tours, ICAC Open Day, annual gathering of ICAC Club members, i Junior Programme for Primary School, iTeen Leadership Programme, ICAC Ambassador Programme, and iPLUS Youth Development Programme, etc.

ACOC was pleased to note that under the leadership of the new Commissioner, the ICAC stepped up its media publicity and upgraded its “All for Integrity” activity page to “Hong Kong ICAC” official fanpage in Facebook. A new “Hong Kong ICAC” Instagram official account was also created to share more frequently with members of the public the latest work of the ICAC. ACOC highly commended these initiatives.

***Support Clean Elections***

ACOC supported the ICAC’s robust law enforcement to combat possible acts of manipulating or undermining elections, as well as its adoption of a preventive and intervention approach by deploying officers to the polling stations on polling days to handle public enquiries and complaints on the spot, and monitoring the subsequent vote-counting process to ensure that the elections were conducted in a fair, open and just manner. The ICAC also adopted an “all-embracing” education and publicity strategy to ensure that the 2022 Chief Executive Election, the 2022 Legislative Council Election Committee Constituency By-election and the 2023 Rural Representative Election were clean and fair.

***Global Collaboration against Corruption***

ACOC acknowledged ICAC’s work in extending the international collaboration network. ACOC noted that since the ICAC had taken up the Presidency of International Association of Anti-Corruption Authorities and established the Secretariat in January 2022, the ICAC initiated the regional coordination mechanism with a view to establishing collaboration and partnership with anti-corruption agencies (ACAs) around the world as well as organising and coordinating anti-corruption meetings and training programmes. ACOC also supported ICAC’s resumption of overseas visits in late 2022 for face-to-face exchanges with overseas ACAs and international organisations to strengthen anti-corruption collaboration with the international community and impress them on Hong Kong’s strong rule of law and stable social environment. ACOC was pleased to note that the ICAC maintained close liaison with the National Commission of Supervision and anti-corruption agencies in the Greater Bay Area in accordance with the national development and anti-graft policy, as well as fostering anti-corruption collaboration in the Greater Bay Area.

***Corporate Governance***

ACOC continued to exercise an effective monitoring role to advise the ICAC on its work. ACOC received periodic reports on internal audits of ICAC, and noticed and supported ICAC’s efforts in making continual improvements to its internal control and administrative systems for enhanced governance.

ACOC considered and endorsed ICAC’s draft Estimates of Expenditure for 2023-24, and also scrutinised the *ICAC Annual Report 2022* before it was submitted to you.

**Appreciation**

I wish to take this opportunity to thank members of ACOC for their contributions and support. I, together with other members of ACOC, would also like to place on record our gratitude to 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 2022)**

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;

* 1. to advise on action being considered by the Commissioner under section 8(2) of the *Independent Commission Against Corruption Ordinance*;
  2. to receive reports by the Commissioner on disciplinary action taken;
  3. to consider the annual estimates of expenditure of the Commission;
  4. to scrutinise the annual report of the Commission before its submission to the Chief Executive; and
  5. to submit an annual report to the Chief Executive on the work of the Committee.

1. 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 2022)**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| The Hon Martin LIAO Cheung-kong, GBS, JP | (Chairman) | |
| Ms AU King-chi, GBS, JP |  | |
| The Hon CHAN Hak-kan, SBS, JP |  | |
| Ms Irene CHOW Man-ling |  | |
| Mr Victor LAM Hoi Cheung, JP | |  |
| Ms Cecilia LEE Sau Wai, JP | |  |
| Mr Abraham SHEK Lai-him, GBS, JP |  | |
| 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 2022**

**TO THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

The Chief Executive the Honourable Mr John LEE Ka-chiu,

**TERMS OF REFERENCE AND MEMBERSHIP**

The Operations Review Committee, comprising 13 non-official members, oversees the work of the Operations Department of the Independent Commission Against Corruption (ICAC). Its terms of reference and membership are at **Annexes A** and **B** respectively. Following the resignation of Mr Paul LAM Ting-kwok from his position as Chairman of the Committee in June 2022, I was appointed as the new Chairman in July 2022. At the end of 2022, the Honourable Ronick CHAN Chun-ying and Mr Kelvin WONG Tin-yau retired from the Committee after six years of service, and two new members, namely Mr Samuel CHAN Ka-yan and the Honourable Carmen KAN Wai-mun, joined the Committee in 2023.

**WORK OF THE COMMITTEE**

Among the eight Committee meetings originally scheduled to be held in 2022 to review reports prepared by the Operations Department, one of the meetings was cancelled due to the aggravating pandemic situation. During the seven meetings that were convened, the Committee received reports and updates from the Operations Department on current major investigations, cases prosecuted at court, ICAC investigations spanning over a year and cases involving persons who had been on ICAC bail for over six months. The Committee noted that no search warrants had been issued by the Commissioner pursuant to section 17 of the *Prevention of Bribery Ordinance* (Cap 201). During the year, the Committee received reports on 26 completed major investigations.

A Subcommittee with three non-official members sitting in rotation was convened on eight separate occasions to consider and advise on 1 638 completed minor investigations and 393 non-pursuable complaints of corruption. Findings of the Subcommittee were reported to the Committee for endorsement.

The Head of Operations attended the Committee meetings to brief members on the work of the Operations Department, corruption statistics and trends and other issues of interest. We also received the *Annual Report on Corruption and Malpractice in the Government 2021*, which identified areas susceptible to corruption and malpractices in the Government.

**GENERAL CORRUPTION SCENE**

The corruption situation in Hong Kong continues to be well under control. The civil service and public bodies in Hong Kong remain clean and honest, while a corruption-free and level playing field is maintained for the private enterprises. In 2022, a total of 1 835 corruption complaints (excluding election complaints[[21]](#footnote-21)) were received, representing a decrease of 19% when compared to 2 264 complaints in 2021. Pursuable complaints also went down by 17% from 1 738 to 1 438. The Committee noted that the decrease was largely attributed to the dampened economic activities hard hit by the fifth wave of the pandemic early this year, which was similar to the situation at the onset of the pandemic outbreak in 2020. Overall, 64% of the corruption complaints concerned the private sector, 29% related to government departments and 7% involved public bodies.

Like a tumor in society, corruption is a crime which is highly insidious and difficult to detect. The deteriorating coronavirus situation since 2020 had inevitably affected the investigative work of the Operations Department, including face-to-face interviews with witnesses, arrest operations and overseas enquiries. The Committee appreciates that the Operations Department pursued each and every corruption case vigilantly with perseverance. In 2022, 204 persons involved in 104 cases (excluding election cases) were prosecuted, up by 7% when compared to 190 persons in 2021, while 16 persons were formally cautioned for minor breaches of offences. In 2022, 89 persons were convicted (excluding election cases). The person-based and case-based conviction rates were 80% and 82% respectively.

The Committee notes that public support for the ICAC’s anti-corruption work remains strong with 71% of the complainants identifying themselves when reporting corruption.

**CORRUPTION IN THE GOVERNMENT SECTOR**

In 2022, 533 complaints concerning staff of government bureaux and departments were received, representing a decrease of 17% when compared to 645 complaints in 2021. The number of pursuable complaints also recorded a drop by 13% from 426 to 372. The number of complaints concerning the government sector registered a decline across the board. A total of 113 cases were referred to the ICAC for action by various government bureaux and departments, accounting for 6% of the overall complaints.

A clean and impartial civil service lays a solid foundation for maintaining public confidence in the Government as well as the stability and prosperity of a society. Though there were 20 government servants prosecuted for corruption or other illicit acts during the year, the Committee is pleased to note that the vast majority of government servants live up to a high standard of integrity and conduct. The Committee is confident that the ICAC will continue to investigate all reports of corruption in strict accordance with the law, and will forge continuous collaboration with government bureaux and departments to ensure the integrity and probity required of government servants.

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

In 2022, upon a comprehensive review of the investigation reports and recommendations submitted by the Operations Department, the Committee endorsed the referral of 49 cases involving 116 government servants to the relevant bureaux and departments for consideration of disciplinary and/or administrative action. Such referrals mainly concerned civil servants obtaining unauthorised loans, misusing their authority and neglecting their duties.

**CORRUPTION CONCERNING PUBLIC BODIES**

In 2022, corruption complaints relating to public bodies dropped by 12% from 137 to 121, and pursuable complaints also decreased by 21% from 98 to 77 when compared to 2021. The Hospital Authority (21), the Hong Kong Jockey Club (12) and the University of Hong Kong (eight) together accounted for 34% of the total complaints relating to public bodies. Despite the overall decrease in the number of complaints, there are isolated cases which are worthy of attention. In August 2022, the Operations Department conducted an operation against bribery over the award of works and material supplies contracts, as well as the administrative and financial matters in the Three-runway System Project of the Hong Kong International Airport. Two former senior executives of the Airport Authority Hong Kong and a number of suppliers and sub-contractors were prosecuted for accepting / offering bribes and money laundering offences. The Committee supports ICAC’s resolute enforcement action to prevent the spread of corruption in society, and is pleased to note that the ICAC will continue to closely monitor the corruption situation in public bodies.

**CORRUPTION IN THE PRIVATE SECTOR**

In 2022, complaints concerning the private sector decreased by 20% from 1 482 to 1 181, with a corresponding 19% drop from 1 214 to 989 in pursuable complaints. The drop was seen across all major subsectors, including building management (from 549 to 420), construction industry (from 174 to 133), and finance and insurance (from 142 to 105), which were the top three subsectors attracting most complaints.

The Committee notices that despite the drop in the number of complaints, building management remained top of the list of corruption complaints concerning the private sector. The Committee supports the Operations Department’s two-pronged strategy for the robust enforcement against corruption and malpractices in this subsector, combining investigation and evidence gathering to bring the law breakers to justice, as well as early intervention to timely alert flat owners on the potential corruption risks. The Committee is pleased to note the successful clampdown of a sophisticated corrupt syndicate in a large-scale operation targeting the property management and building maintenance industry mounted by the Operations Department in early January 2023. The investigation involved 10 maintenance projects amounting to more than $500 million in total, with some of the projects involving over $1 million in bribes. In light of the fact that building management is closely related to people’s livelihood, the enforcement action well demonstrates the unwavering determination of the Operations Department in protecting the interests of the public. The Committee is confident that the time-tested strategy adopted by the Operations Department can effectively address public concern.

The Committee is pleased to note that the Operations Department has spared no effort in eradicating corruption in the construction industry and achieved notable results, which is well demonstrated in the Three-runway System Project bribery case. It is also noted that the Operations Department has, since the first half of 2021, taken a series of enforcement actions to tackle cases of bribery over job referrals in the industry. Since 2021 to the end of 2022, 20 persons involved in these cases were prosecuted with 12 of them convicted. With the progressive commencement of a number of major infrastructure projects in Hong Kong, robust law enforcement of the ICAC has served as a strong deterrent to the industry.

The Committee observes that complaints in relation to the finance and insurance subsector recorded a 26% decrease when compared with 2021. The Operations Department had made sustained all-out efforts to monitor the corruption situation and combat bribery in the subsector so as to safeguard the integrity of Hong Kong’s financial market and maintain public confidence of global investors in the local financial regime. The Committee is pleased to note that the ICAC had strengthened collaboration in enforcement and intelligence sharing with the Securities and Futures Commission (SFC) and the Accounting and Financial Reporting Council by signing a Memorandum of Understanding with them respectively in 2019 and 2021. The joint operation mounted by the ICAC and the SFC in November 2022 had successfully smashed a sophisticated syndicate operating ramp-and-dump schemes through a complex cross-shareholding network of Hong Kong listed companies. The syndicate was alleged to have offered bribes to the responsible officers and staff of brokers for assistance in shares placing. The Committee is confident that the Operations Department’s redoubled collaborative efforts made with relevant financial regulators to safeguard the integrity of the financial market can improve Hong Kong’s unique status and edge as an international financial hub, especially during the critical time of its re-entering the global financial arena.

**ELECTIONS**

A number of important public elections, namely, the 2021 Election Committee Subsector Ordinary Elections, the 2021 Legislative Council General Election and the 2022 Chief Executive Election, were held smoothly under the improved electoral system. As at December 2022, the ICAC had received 28, 148 and five complaints respectively regarding the three elections, of which 27, 144 and five were pursuable.

In 2022, 11 persons were prosecuted and one person cautioned for various electoral offences, while 22 persons were given warnings for minor breaches of electoral offences which mainly related to election expenses. In 2022, 12 persons were convicted of various electoral offences.

In order to curb any acts that may constitute offences of manipulating and sabotaging the elections, a new provision, i.e. section 27A of the *Elections (Corrupt and Illegal Conduct) Ordinance* (ECICO) about “inciting another person not to vote, or to cast invalid vote, by activity in public during election period”, was introduced in 2021. As at December 2022, upon investigations carried out by the ICAC, nine persons had been prosecuted for breaching the offence, with seven convicted and two pending plea. One other person was formally cautioned.

Besides giving due recognition to such a remarkable enforcement achievement which well demonstrates the perseverance and hard work of the ICAC in safeguarding clean elections, the Committee also fully supports the ICAC’s concurrent prevention and intervention approach by deploying ICAC officers to the polling stations on polling days to handle public enquiries and complaints on the spot, and monitoring the subsequent vote-counting process. The Committee firmly believes that the ICAC will make continuous unswerving efforts to ensure future public elections will be conducted in a fair, open and just manner.

**CONCLUSION**

Clouded by the adverse impact of the rampant coronavirus pandemic, it is not just the local economy and people’s livelihood that have been suffering a severe blow, the ICAC has also encountered impediments and major challenges in its enforcement work. The Committee is confident that in moving towards its 50th anniversary, the ICAC will continue to overcome the challenges with strong determination in eradicating corruption without fear or favour so as to consolidate the rule of law foundation of Hong Kong and to safeguard its status as an international financial hub.

**APPRECIATION**

Last but not least, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to all members of the Committee for their dedication and contributions in reviewing cases and offering valuable opinions. The Committee also highly commends the strong commitment and devotion of the Operations Department in fulfilling its anti-corruption mission, as well as its pledge to uphold the rule of law.

Bernard Charnwut CHAN, GBM, GBS, JP

Chairman

Operations Review Committee

**Annex A Operations Review Committee**

**Terms of Reference (as at 31 December 2022)**

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 2022)**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| The Hon Bernard Charnwut CHAN, GBM, GBS, JP | (Chairman) |
| The Hon Ronick CHAN Chun-ying, JP |  |
| Dr Emily CHAN Po-shan |  |
| Ms Clara CHAN Yuen-shan, MH |  |
| Dr Aron Hari HARILELA, BBS, JP |  |
| Prof David HUI Shu-cheong, BBS, JP |  |
| Mr Johnson KONG Chi-how |  |
| Mr Richard Kendall LANCASTER |  |
| Mr Felix LI Kwok-hing |  |
| Prof LI Pang-kwong, BBS, JP |  |
| Ms Melissa Kaye PANG, BBS, MH, JP |  |
| Dr Kelvin WONG Tin-yau, SBS, 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 2022**

**TO THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

The Chief Executive the Honourable Mr John LEE Ka-chiu,

**TERMS OF REFERENCE AND MEMBERSHIP**

The Corruption Prevention Advisory Committee (CPAC), comprising 12 non-official members, advises the Commissioner of the 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, Ms Carrie LAU Ka-wai has succeeded Mr Alan YAU Hoi-ngan as Member of the Committee. Through six subcommittees, each comprising two non-official members, the Committee advises on the focus and priority of the work of the six Assignment Groups of the CPD.

**WORK OF THE COMMITTEE**

In the year, the CPAC met on six occasions and considered 68 assignment reports presented by the CPD. These assignment reports, involving mostly the work of government bureaux/departments (B/Ds) and public bodies (PBs) covering a wide range of systems and functions, were scrutinised by the CPAC to ensure that the recommendations proposed by the CPD to mitigate the corruption risks identified were practical and effective. A list of the assignment reports endorsed by the CPAC is at **Annex C**. Following the issue of reports, the ICAC followed up closely with the B/Ds and organisations concerned on their implementation of the corruption prevention recommendations.

The CPAC noted that apart from the assignment reports, the CPD provided timely corruption prevention advice to B/Ds and PBs on 588 occasions[[22]](#footnote-22)\*, mainly in their formulation/review of legislation, policies, systems or procedures for the implementation of new initiatives, public services and public works projects. Furthermore, tailor-made corruption prevention advice was offered to private sector upon request on 1 022 occasions\*, with each request for services duly responded to within two working days. In addition, the Corruption Prevention Advisory Service handled 711 public enquiries through its hotline service. The ICAC also conducted a total of 187 corruption prevention seminars for B/Ds, PBs and private organisations (including non-governmental organisations and consultants/contractors of public works), reaching an audience totalling over 13 400 persons.

**HIGHLIGHT OF WORK**

During the year, the ICAC continued to assist B/Ds and PBs in further reducing corruption or other integrity risks through enhancing their systems and procedures, so as to ensure their public policies and services are corruption-free and implemented effectively. The CPAC supports the ICAC to continue adopting the strategy of prevention at source in providing early input to B/Ds and PBs, which can help ensure necessary integrity management and corruption prevention elements are built in the implementation systems from the outset. The ICAC has also collaborated with the relevant government departments and organisations for promoting the digitalisation of work processes and public services to enhance corruption prevention and efficiency concurrently. The ICAC continued to provide corruption prevention advisory services to the private sector and leveraged on convenient and diversified channels, including electronic platforms, to provide the latest corruption prevention information to the private sector. In addition, the ICAC established partnership with the regulatory bodies/organisations and professional bodies of different industries in enhancing the corruption prevention capabilities of the private sector. The highlight of the CPD’s work is set out below.

***Adopt Proactive and Prevention at Source Strategies***

In recent years, the Government has launched a number of new initiatives and programmes to address the needs concerning people’s livelihood, social and economic development. Such initiatives include those to increase the public and private housing supply, drive the development of transport infrastructure, improve the occupational safety of employees and promote the development of innovation and technology, etc. The ICAC has provided early corruption prevention advice to B/Ds and PBs concerned during the design and preparation of new initiatives and programmes to facilitate their effective implementation with system integrity, and where necessary, will conduct detailed reviews to plug any further possible corruption loopholes. The CPAC is pleased to note that effective and successful implementation of the corruption prevention measures can be ensured through this comprehensive approach and the strategy to provide early corruption prevention input.

***Address Issues concerning People’s Livelihood, Public Interest and Safety***

The ICAC attaches particular importance to areas concerning people’s livelihood or public safety, issues of public interest or concern, and programmes and projects involving substantial amount of public money. The CPAC is pleased to note that the CPD has reviewed and offered corruption prevention advice to B/Ds and PBs during the year to mitigate the corruption risks in the relevant programmes, covering areas such as public election, public works, integrity management of PBs, law enforcement and regulatory functions, food safety, procurement and funding scheme administration.

***Strengthen Industries’ Capabilities in Corruption Prevention through Partnership***

The CPAC applauds the ICAC, in collaboration with the regulatory bodies/organisations of various industries, to enhance the integrity management and corruption prevention capabilities of these industries through innovative and diversified approaches, which achieved gratifying results during the year. Such efforts included cooperation with the Development Bureau and the Construction Industry Council to enhance the Integrity Charter to the Construction Industry Integrity Charter 2.0, which had extended its coverage to consulting firms, and continued to assist construction companies in adopting an integrity management system, collaboration with the Property Management Services Authority to assist licensed property management companies to establish an integrity management system, and development of a new *Corruption Prevention Guide for Banks* in collaboration with the Hong Kong Monetary Authority and industry associations to enhance the awareness and knowledge of relevant corruption risks for banks and the banking practitioners.

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

Since the 1980s, the ICAC has promoted computerisation of work procedures in B/Ds and PBs to enhance their corruption prevention capabilities and streamline workflows. The CPAC is pleased to note that the CPD has stepped up its efforts in promoting and recommending the use of innovation technology for the anti-corruption cause by adopting the Digital Corruption Prevention Framework in the assignment studies to be conducted for B/Ds and PBs, and providing, amongst others, corruption prevention advice on the respective digital works supervision systems of the Development Bureau and the MTR Corporation Limited.

**LOOKING AHEAD**

The CPAC supports the ICAC to continue to adopt its corruption prevention strategy to assist public and private sectors in enhancing and strengthening their corruption prevention capabilities. In the coming year, the CPD will:

* continue to support and assist the Government, PBs and related organisations (e.g. non-governmental organisations) in enhancing governance capability and governance efficacy by, among other things, providing input on integrity management and corruption prevention;
* continue to support and assist the development/enhancement of Hong Kong as an international centre for business by, among other things, working with industry regulators and bodies in integrity management and corruption prevention capacity building in the respective industries;
* support and assist B/Ds and PBs in implementing initiatives, projects and services important to people’s livelihood, including housing and infrastructure development, building rehabilitation, law enforcement and regulatory regimes, healthcare and social welfare services, education, environmental protection by, among other things, providing input on integrity management and corruption prevention; and
* advise B/Ds and PBs in the adoption of more efficient, streamlined and/or digitalised processes, and promote digitalisation of public services and the use of technology to enhance corruption prevention.

**CONCLUSION**

The CPD continues to play a crucial role in enhancing the integrity governance and internal controls of both public and private organisations in Hong Kong. The CPAC affirms the outstanding work done by the CPD in the past year, in particular it has been promoting to the B/Ds, PBs and private organisations the digitalisation of their work processes and effective adoption of technology which can strengthen their corruption prevention capabilities. The wide range of corruption prevention services offered to the public and private sectors through the CPD’s prevention at source and partnership strategies also help maintain Hong Kong as an economy of integrity and competitiveness.

**APPRECIATION**

I would like to take this opportunity to express my appreciation for the contribution and support of all CPAC members during the year. I also wish to thank ICAC 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 2022)**

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 2022)**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Mr Adrian WONG Koon-man, BBS, MH, JP | (Chairman) |
| Miss Mabel CHAN Mei-bo  Ms Kuby CHAN Yin-hung |  |
| Prof Emily CHAN Ying-yang |  |
| Mr Sunny CHEUNG Yiu-tong |  |
| Mr Alex CHU Wing-yiu |  |
| The Hon Doreen KONG Yuk-foon  Dr Stephen LAI Yuk-fai, JP |  |
| Ms Carrie LAU Ka-wai |  |
| Mr Albert SU Yau-on, MH, JP |  |
| Mr Winson WOO Lap-kee |  |
| 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 2022**

| ***Client*** |  | ***Subject Area*** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 1. **Government Bureaux/Departments** | | |
| Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department |  | Letting and Administration of Services Contracts for Wholesale Food Markets |
| Architectural Services Department |  | Control of Building Components and Modules Prefabricated outside Hong Kong |
| Buildings Department |  | New Building Works Control Regime of Hong Kong |
| Civil Engineering and Development Department |  | Procurement and Management of Geotechnical and Slope Consultancies |
| Companies Registry |  | Administration of Licensing Regime for Trust or Company Service Providers |
| Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau and Registration and Electoral Office |  | Corruption Prevention Input to Assist Government and Participating Organisations to Ensure Clean Election |
| Correctional Services Department |  | Administration of Staff Duty Roster, Leave, Overtime and Allowance |
| Customs and Excise Department |  | Administration of Staff Attendance, Leave and Overtime Work |
| Development Bureau |  | Letting and Administration of Service Contracts for Venues Managed by Commissioner for Heritage’s Office |
|  |  | Registration of Tree Management Personnel |
| Efficiency Office |  | Social Innovation and Entrepreneurship Development Fund – Projects Directly Administered by Efficiency Office |
| Electrical and Mechanical Services Department |  | Registration and Monitoring of Generating Facilities |
| Environmental Protection Department |  | Management of Landfill Extension Projects |
|  |  | Provision of Collection and Treatment Services for Waste Glass Containers |
| Food and Environmental Hygiene Department |  | Control of Food Importers and Food Import Licences |
| Government Logistics Department |  | Outsourcing of Printing Work |
| Hong Kong Police Force |  | Administration of Foundation Training Programmes |
| Housing Department |  | Control of Tree Maintenance Works |
| Labour Department |  | Recognition and Monitoring of Mandatory Safety Training Courses |
| Lands Department |  | Letting and Administration of Short Term Tenancies |
| Legal Aid Department |  | Handling of In-house Civil Litigations |
| Leisure and Cultural Services Department |  | Letting and Administration of Revenue Contracts for Provision of Catering Services |
| Marine Department |  | Port State Control Inspections |
| Office of the Communications Authority |  | Enforcement against Illegal Radiocommunications Activities and Equipment |
| Office of the Government Chief Information Officer |  | Procurement of Information and Communications Technology Products and Services |
| Public and Private Sectors |  | Corruption Prevention through Digitisation  Recommended Corruption Prevention Practices for Return of Election Committee Ex-officio and Nominated Members |
| Rating and Valuation Department |  | Valuation of Special Properties |
| Social Welfare Department |  | Administration of Short-term Food Assistance Service Teams |
| Transport Department |  | Administration of the One-for-One Replacement Scheme for Electric Private Cars |
| Water Supplies Department |  | Administration of Water Safety Plan Subsidy Scheme |
|  |  | Letting and Administration of Term Maintenance Contracts |
| 1. **Public Bodies** | | |
| Accounting and Financial Reporting Council |  | Complaint Handling and Investigation Procedures |
|  |  | Inspection of Auditors of Listed Entities |
| Airport Authority Hong Kong |  | Administration of Mechanical Systems Maintenance Contracts |
| City University of Hong Kong |  | Acquisition and Management of Library Materials |
| Construction Industry Council |  | Administration of Registered Specialist Trade Contractors Scheme |
|  |  | Administration of Research and Technology Development Fund |
| Employees Retraining Board |  | Funding and Administration of Training Courses |
| Hong Kong Applied Science and Technology Research Institute Company Limited |  | Procurement Procedures |
| Hong Kong Arts Development Council |  | Leasing and Management of Arts Spaces |
|  |  | Procurement of Goods and Services |
| Hong Kong Council for Accreditation of Academic and Vocational Qualifications |  | Administration of Accreditation Services |
| Hong Kong Housing Society |  | Selection and Management of Works Consultants |
|  |  | Site Supervision of Superstructure Works |
| Hong Kong Metropolitan University |  | Administration of Study Programmes in Li Ka Shing School of Professional and Continuing Education |
| Hong Kong Science and Technology Parks Corporation |  | Governance of the Hong Kong Science and Technology Parks Corporation |
| Hong Kong Tourism Board |  | Procurement of Services |
| Hong Kong Trade Development Council |  | Administration of Outbound Business Missions |
| Hospital Authority |  | Administration of Major Capital Works Projects |
|  |  | Administration of Public-Private Partnership Programmes for Healthcare Services |
|  |  | Quality Control of Major Capital Works Projects |
| Lingnan University |  | Letting and Administration of Service Contracts |
| MTR Corporation Limited |  | Selection and Management of Works Consultants for New Railway Projects |
| Securities and Futures Commission |  | Regulation of Listed Companies |
| The Chinese University of Hong Kong |  | Letting and Administration of Repair and Maintenance Works Contracts |
|  |  | Procurement Procedures |
| The Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts |  | Administration of Scholarships and Bursaries |
| The Hong Kong and China Gas Company Limited |  | Selection and Administration of Authorised Distributors for Gas Appliances |
| The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology |  | Procurement of General Goods and Services |
| The University of Hong Kong |  | Management of Museum Collections |
| Urban Renewal Authority |  | Administration of Lift Modernisation Subsidy Scheme |
| West Kowloon Cultural District Authority |  | Talent Development Programmes |
| 1. **Others** | | |
| Banking Sector |  | Corruption Prevention Guide for Banks |
| CMA Industrial Development Foundation Limited  Construction Industry |  | Operation of CMA Testing and Certification Laboratories  Corruption Prevention Work on Modular Integrated Construction |
| Hong Kong Mediation Accreditation Association Limited |  | Accreditation Procedures |
| Property Management Industry |  | Corruption Prevention Work for Property Management Industry |

**Citizens Advisory Committee on Community Relations**

**ANNUAL REPORT 2022**

**TO THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

The Chief Executive the Honourable Mr John LEE Ka-chiu,

**TERMS OF REFERENCE AND MEMBERSHIP**

The Citizens Advisory Committee on Community Relations (CACCR) advises the Commissioner of the ICAC on the Commission’s work to foster public support in combatting corruption and educate the public against the evils of corruption. 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 (MPCRSC) and the Preventive Education and Public Engagement Subcommittee (PEPESC), which scrutinise and give advice on specific aspects of work of the Community Relations Department (CRD) of the ICAC and report to the CACCR.

**WORK OF THE COMMITTEE**

During the year, the CACCR conducted three meetings (including one in the form of paper circulation due to the fifth wave of the pandemic) to discuss and advise on measures to consolidate a probity culture in the community through face-to-face contacts with different segments of the community and effective use of the mass and new media. In particular, the CACCR discussed ICAC’s education and publicity strategies in 2022/23, the Ethics Promotion Programme for the Banking Industry and its performance indicators, and ICAC’s latest development and initiatives on corruption prevention and values education in schools.

The two Subcommittees, which held a total of seven meetings (including one in the form of paper circulation due to the fifth wave of the pandemic) in 2022, advised on specific areas of ICAC’s education and publicity work and reported their deliberations to the CACCR for endorsement.

**WORK OF THE SUBCOMMITTEES**

During the year, the MPCRSC offered opinions on ICAC’s deployment of mass and new media to maximise the reach of anti-corruption messages. Moreover, the Subcommittee contributed advice on the conduct of the ICAC Annual Survey and focus group studies, the findings of which shed light on the development of preventive education and publicity strategies of the ICAC.

The PEPESC provided contribution to ICAC’s preventive education work for different segments of the community. During the year, the Subcommittee specifically reviewed the effectiveness of the Integrity Promotion Campaign for Public Bodies, and discussed the Commission’s work strategy in encouraging the public to report corruption and the publicity plan for the 25th anniversary of the ICAC Club.

**REVIEW OF EDUCATION AND PUBLICITY WORK IN 2022**

The ICAC has adopted a three-pronged anti-corruption strategy to safeguard the core value of integrity and sustain the probity culture of Hong Kong through law enforcement, prevention, education and publicity. During the past three years, the COVID-19 pandemic swept across the world. While Hong Kong’s economy and people’s livelihood were hit hard by the fifth wave of the pandemic in the first half of 2022, ICAC’s education and publicity work was also faced with great difficulties and challenges. Nonetheless, the Committee was pleased to see that the ICAC had sped up and strengthened its education and publicity work in the second half of 2022 when the pandemic situation eased gradually, safeguarding Hong Kong’s hard-earned reputation as a corruption-free city and telling good stories of Hong Kong to underscore the national development and the governance philosophy of the new-term SAR Government. On behalf of the Committee, I would like to report on the achievements of the ICAC during the year.

***Youth and Moral Education***

The ICAC always accorded top priority to nurturing the core value of integrity and law-abidingness amongst the younger generation. In parallel, the ICAC has all along reached out to young people extensively. The activities organised by the ICAC for youngsters at different developmental stages were very popular among teachers and students.

The Committee was pleased to note that the *iPLUS* Youth Development Programme organised by the ICAC in 2022 was both rich in content and practical. The component activities, including a summer camp and internship programme, a job shadowing programme, sharing by ICAC officers for their alma maters and a visit to the Department of Justice, were not only welcomed by ICAC Ambassadors and iTeen Leaders, but could also effectively let them understand the importance of the rule of law and law-abidingness as well as the work of the ICAC. Over the years, the ICAC Ambassador Programme for tertiary students and iTeen Leadership Programme for secondary students had been well received by schools. Although some face-to-face classes and campus activities were suspended in 2022 due to the pandemic, the ICAC was able to reach more than 40 000 secondary and tertiary students during the year through various integrity promotion activities initiated and organised by ICAC Ambassadors and iTeen Leaders.

In addition to the provision of picture books to primary schools, kindergartens and parents for reading activities and moral education, the ICAC also launched a new animation teaching package *The Little Coffee Bean Missions* within the year. Self-discipline, rule-abidingness, honesty, fairness and other moral education themes were discussed and illustrated with the use of some life events of the primary students. Echoing the ten priority values and attitudes advocated by the Education Bureau for schools to nurture in their students, the package facilitated teachers to carry out values education within and beyond the classroom under the school-based curriculum. Therefore, the i Junior Programme for Primary Schools continued to receive staunch support in the 2022/23 academic year. Its student participation scheme and teaching package with the theme of honesty attracted about 240 primary schools, reaching more than 120 000 students. The Committee appreciated the practical approach and high effectiveness of the programme.

***Clean Elections***

To tie in with the improved electoral system and the implementation of “patriots administering Hong Kong”, the *Elections (Corrupt and Illegal Conduct) Ordinance* (ECICO) was amended in 2021 to include two offences regarding conduct that manipulated or undermined elections. The Committee highly commended the unremitting efforts of the ICAC in adopting its extensive educational and publicity strategy to ensure the message of clean elections be conveyed to the candidates, election helpers and voters of the 2022 Chief Executive Election, the 2022 Legislative Council Election Committee By-election, as well as the Rural Representative Ordinary Election held in early 2023. During the year, the ICAC organised tens of briefings and publicity activities, published information booklets for candidates and reminder leaflets for voters, and used multimedia to widely disseminate clean elections messages to the stakeholders. The Clean Election Enquiry Hotline operated throughout the year to answer enquiries on ECICO from the public, especially those who participated in public elections for the first time. I would like to express my heartfelt thanks to every ICAC member who had contributed to the “Support Clean Elections” Programme and the frontline officers who handled public enquiries and complaints on the polling days. Their meticulous professionalism had facilitated the conduct of the public elections in a clean and fair manner and consolidated the clean election culture in Hong Kong.

***Government and Public Bodies***

The Committee was regularly updated by the ICAC on its efforts to entrench the culture of integrity in the government and public sector, and was pleased to see that the ICAC continued to provide integrity training to government officers at all levels. Among all, briefing sessions were swiftly organised for principal officials and politically appointed officials of the new-term government upon their assumption of duties in July 2022 to provide them with updates on anti-corruption laws and integrity management, and enlist their support to entrench the integrity culture in the civil service. In addition, the ICAC maintained close ties with the Civil Service Bureau and injected new elements into the Ethical Leadership Programme. For example, ICAC sessions were incorporated in the mandatory induction programme for newly-recruited civil servants who joined the government from July 2022 onwards. A thematic workshop was also organised to discuss with senior management of bureaux/departments (B/Ds) the topic of financial prudence and the common law offence of misconduct in public office. At the same time, the ICAC worked closely with individual B/Ds to arrange regular integrity training for their staff. About 60% of B/Ds had adopted integrity training cycles upon the encouragement of CRD.

On the other hand, the Committee was delighted to learn that the Integrity Promotion Campaign for Public Bodies had achieved remarkable results. During the year, CRD officers promoted the ICAC’s comprehensive corruption prevention and education services in full steam and had reached about 100 public bodies so far. A number of public bodies had taken the opportunity of this Campaign to establish partnership with the ICAC. They arranged integrity training for their senior management and members of their governing bodies, organised activities with new ICAC resources and implemented integrity management within their organisations.

***Business Ethics Promotion***

CRD’s Hong Kong Business Ethics Development Centre (HKBEDC) strived to promote business and professional ethics as the first line of defence against corruption. Years ago before I joined the Committee, I had been partnering with HKBEDC to promote business ethics and encourage the business community to practise ethical corporate governance. The CACCR appreciated HKBEDC’s continued efforts to provide free integrity training services, either in the form of face-to-face talks or web courses, for various industries and professions during the pandemic, offering support to small and medium start-ups as well as listed and multinational companies to promote business ethics and remain competitive amidst economic fluctuations. In addition, the Committee was also pleased to see that HKBEDC provided on its website a large number of practical ethics training resources tailored for different industries and professions to address their characteristics and concerns.

The CACCR fully supported the Ethics Promotion Programme for Banking Industry, under which HKBEDC arranged systematic educational and publicity activities for the practitioners and reviewed the relevant training content and teaching materials to enhance the professional ethics of bank practitioners and fortify the integrity culture in the industry.

The Committee agreed to ICAC’s continuous and active promotion of professional ethics and corruption prevention messages to construction professionals, contractors, works supervisors and frontline workers. During the year, the ICAC cracked a corruption case over the award of works and material supplies contracts and related administrative and financial arrangements under the “Three-runway System Project” of the Hong Kong International Airport. When the investigation turned overt, the ICAC met the senior management of the Airport Authority of Hong Kong immediately and arranged integrity training for all management and frontline staff of the Airport Authority, as well as managers and supervisors of the main contractors and consultants of the Third Runway Project. Working relationship was further consolidated.

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

The CACCR acknowledged ICAC’s continuous efforts to provide owners’ corporations and related building management bodies with preventive education services, including district and online briefing sessions, enquiry hotline services and a thematic website, to assist them to keep abreast of the latest information on corruption prevention when carrying out projects under various government building maintenance subsidy schemes. The Committee also supported the ICAC to fully implement the Professional Property Management with Integrity Programme and continued the collaboration with the Property Management Services Authority, property management companies, professional bodies, chambers of commerce and tertiary institutions to enhance professional ethics in the industry.

***Community Engagement***

The CACCR endorsed ICAC’s community engagement strategy to put across anti-corruption messages amongst different sectors of the community and garner their support. The year 2022 marked the 25th anniversary of the ICAC Club and signified the long-standing partnership between ICAC and over 3 000 Club members. The CACCR was impressed by the unfailing support of the Club members who had provided over 74 000 hours of voluntary services in ICAC activities over the past 25 years. During the ICAC Club’s 25th anniversary award presentation ceremony, I had talked to some senior Club members, retired ICAC officers serving as mentors in the ICAC Club Mentoring Programme and their Youth Chapter mentees, and was deeply touched by the passion and dedication of Hong Kong people, regardless of their ages and backgrounds, in the anti-graft mission.

CACCR members also joined the ICAC Open Day and the “Journey for Integrity” experiential exhibition at Tai Kwun. The persistence of the ICAC in the fight against corruption and the professional performance of CRD officers in the two large-scale publicity events were highly regarded. Moreover, the self-guided city walks online platform, launched in 2022, introduced a number of meticulously curated routes for members of the public to trace the footprints of Hong Kong’s anti-corruption efforts across the territory virtually while the community walks guided the participants to experience these interesting routes on the spot. A specially curated guided tour was also organised for a group of young people of diverse race. The ICAC Commissioner and a retired senior ICAC officer served as star docents to introduce the spots of attraction as recommended in the online platform. The tour was reported by the media and demonstrated ICAC’s efforts in promoting the good stories of Hong Kong. With CRD’s flexible approach, the ICAC gradually resumed its publicity work at district level when the pandemic situation became stable and reached around 1 500 organisations and over 600 000 counts of people through a spate of community engagement activities in the year.

***Mass and New Media Publicity***

The ICAC continued to use mass media platforms to project the unwavering perseverance of the ICAC in its graft-fighting mission and make integrity messages highly visible to the general public. The TV drama series *ICAC Investigators 2022* broadcasted during the year depicted landmark cases of corruption and the dire consequences brought to the general public. The sharing session of ICAC investigators newly-introduced at the end of each episode also demonstrated to the television audience and online viewers the professionalism of ICAC officers and the importance of safeguarding integrity and the rule of law.

On the other hand, a variety of social media were deployed to extend the impact and reach of ICAC’s probity promotion activities. In particular, the CACCR welcomed CRD’s rebranding of ICAC’s “All for Integrity” Facebook fanpage to “Hong Kong ICAC” Facebook fanpage and introduction of the new “Hong Kong ICAC” Instagram official account. The two online platforms had been widely used as effective means to promote the latest work initiatives of the ICAC, its professionalism in combatting corruption as well as clean messages throughout the year.

The CACCR fully supported the efforts of the ICAC in dispelling public misconception about reporting corruption by capitalising on both the traditional publicity channels and social media platforms, and by inviting district leaders and ICAC supporters to assist in encouraging the public to report corruption.

**CONCLUSION**

As reflected in the 2022 ICAC Annual Survey, the society of Hong Kong firmly supported the anti-corruption cause. Citizens believed that keeping Hong Kong corruption-free was important to the overall development of the city. These findings affirmed the persistent efforts of the ICAC in eradicating corruption. On the other hand, there were still some respondents who indicated that they had not received ICAC messages in the past. In this regard, the ICAC would continue to extend its reach to people from different walks of life and spread the anti-graft message to every corner of the society. Looking ahead to the ICAC turning fifty in the coming year and the critical time for Hong Kong to achieve breakthroughs in the coming five years, the CACCR would build a stronger tie with the ICAC to co-write a new chapter in the work of integrity promotion.

**APPRECIATION**

Having completed the first year of my tenure as Chairman of the CACCR, I would like to extend my appreciation to all members of the Committee and its Subcommittees for their contribution and full support. I treasured the opportunities that, together with members from various professional fields and those young members who joined the Committee through the Member Self-recommendation Scheme for Youth, we all worked together to sustain the probity culture of Hong Kong.

Also, the CACCR wishes to take the opportunity to commend all staff members of the ICAC for their professionalism and dedication to uphold the core value of integrity and the rule of law in Hong Kong even in time of difficulties and challenges.

Simon HO Shun-man

Chairman

Citizens Advisory Committee on Community Relations

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

**Terms of Reference (as at 31 December 2022)**

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 2022)**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Prof Simon HO Shun-man | (Chairman) |
| Mr Mac CHAN Ho-ting |  |
| Ms Catalina CHAN Yuen-ling |  |
| Mr CHU Tsz-wing | |  |
| Prof Anthony FUNG Ying-him, JP |  |
| Mr Chris IP Ngo-tung, BBS, JP |  |
| Ms Pinky LAU Pik-yiu |  |
| Mr James MOK Hon-fai |  |
| Prof Joshua MOK Ka-ho |  |
| Mr Webster NG Kam-wah, JP |  |
| Mr Victor PANG Wing-seng, MH |  |
| Dr Rocky TUNG Yat-ngok |  |
| Ms Gigi WONG Ching-chi |  |
| Dr James WONG Kong-tin, BBS, JP |  |
| Mr WONG Wai-kit, MH  Ms Jenny YUNG Ching-yi |  |
| Commissioner, Independent Commission Against Corruption | (ex officio) |

***Co-opted Members***

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Dr Esther CHO Yin-nei |  |
| Mr KWONG Ka-shi |  |
| Ms Eleanor LI Po-yee |  |
| Mr Anthony SO Chun-hin |  |
| Ms Ashley TSE Hiu-hung |  |
| Mr Eddie KWOK Ming-lok | (ex officio) |
| Ms Isabella SO Kwok-yun | (ex officio) |

1. Election complaints refer to complaints alleging breaches of the Elections (Corrupt and Illegal Conduct) Ordinance (Cap 554). [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Election complaints refer to complaints alleging breaches of the ECICO (Cap 554). [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. The GlobE Network, established in June 2021, offers a platform to facilitate information exchange and transnational cooperation among the anti-corruption and law enforcement authorities around the world to ensure that the States Parties to the UNCAC are equipped with a quick, agile and efficient tool for combatting corruption. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. Election cases refer to the cases relating to offences under the *Elections (Corrupt and Illegal Conduct) Ordinance* (Cap 554). [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. The figures in the above table denote the number of prosecutions. If a person is prosecuted in different cases, calculation of the figures will take into account the number of prosecutions made against that person. [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. Three persons were subject to binding over orders. [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
7. As defined in the *Prevention of Bribery Ordinance* (Cap 201). [↑](#footnote-ref-7)
8. Private individuals were prosecuted in investigations involving Government Bureaux, Departments or Public Bodies. [↑](#footnote-ref-8)
9. The figures in the above table denote the number of prosecutions. If a person is prosecuted in different cases, calculation of the figures will take into account the number of prosecutions made against that person. [↑](#footnote-ref-9)
10. Election cases refer to the cases relating to offences under the *Elections (Corrupt and Illegal Conduct) Ordinance* (Cap 554). [↑](#footnote-ref-10)
11. Private individuals were prosecuted in investigations involving Government Bureaux, Departments or Public Bodies. [↑](#footnote-ref-11)
12. As defined in the *Prevention of Bribery Ordinance* (Cap 201). [↑](#footnote-ref-12)
13. Cap 201 is the *Prevention of Bribery Ordinance*. [↑](#footnote-ref-13)
14. Cap 204 is the *Independent Commission Against Corruption Ordinance*. [↑](#footnote-ref-14)
15. Detailed breakdown at Appendix 7. [↑](#footnote-ref-15)
16. Offences described in section 10(2) of the *Independent Commission Against Corruption Ordinance* (Cap 204). [↑](#footnote-ref-16)
17. The figures in the above table donate the number of prosecutions. If a person is prosecuted in different cases, calculation of the figures will take into account the number of prosecutions made against that person. [↑](#footnote-ref-17)
18. Private individuals were prosecuted in investigations involving Government Bureaux, Departments or Public Bodies. [↑](#footnote-ref-18)
19. As defined in the *Prevention of Bribery Ordinance* (Cap 201). [↑](#footnote-ref-19)
20. Government Bureaux, Departments and Public Bodies which received 4 or more referrals during the year are shown in the table above. [↑](#footnote-ref-20)
21. Election complaints refer to complaints alleging breaches of the *Elections (Corrupt and Illegal Conduct) Ordinance* (Cap 554). [↑](#footnote-ref-21)
22. \* Statistics exclude the numbers of corruption prevention seminars conducted. [↑](#footnote-ref-22)