**[Anti-corruption Movement of TI-Korea (Paper from Seoul Institute for Transparency Seminar)](http://ti.or.kr/xe/108065)**

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“Anti-Corruption Movement of Transparency International Korea”

Sung-goo Kang

Managing Director of TI Korea

Non governmental organization, Transparency International Korea (hereinafter referred to as TI Korea) was founded on August 24, 1999 through a coalition of civil organizations with a purpose, “To reform the awareness of people, to eliminate widespread corruption in the society, and to contribute to the righteous construction of society through anti-corruption movements.” The most controversial point in the process of our formation was whether we would comply with the TI national chapter guidelines, which delineate that the chapters should be non-partisan in character and should not investigate and/or expose cases of corruption. The clause of non-partisanism was generally accepted, however, the latter rendered many skeptics to question whether an anti-corruption organization would properly function without investigation. Nevertheless, what was then the Anti-Corruption Network in Korea decided on compliance with the TI guidelines at the second annual meeting on 30 August 2000, and was accredited as TI Korea at the TI annual meeting held in Ottawa in September 2000.

For the past six years, TI Korea has sought a new paradigm of anti-corruption movement. Not only does this correspond to TI’s approach, it embodies what we have learned in the democratization process during the military regime. This paper will examine the distinctive features of TI Korea’s movement, and the reasoning behind our methods. We hope to achieve a new paradigm of anti-corruption movement through some affirmative changes.

1.      TI Korea’s approach

TI Korea does not oppose or consider insignificant the investigation and/or exposure of corruption cases by other civic groups. However, such approach is superficial and transitory so we have worked towards overcoming these limits and eventually constructing a long-term, sustainable and professional movement. A case in point, we disclosed and share our anti-corruption archive, which contains more than 500 items of documents, books etc. Our collection, by far, surpasses any other Korean civil organizations or government agencies as far as the quality and the number of anti-corruption materials is concerned. This is possible because we strive towards a long-term sustainable movement.

2.      A holistic approach

TI Korea has always argued that investigation, punitive measures or policies alone cannot eliminate corruption. This is not to say that fighting particular issues is unimportant or unnecessary, but rather to emphasize the necessity a long-term comprehensive policy- a holistic approach- to eradicate corruption and overhaul the corruption-friendly culture at the same time.

TI stresses creation of “National Integrity System” so that the anti-corruption movement does not become impotent and myopic from focusing on particulars. In the same breath, TI Korea had suggested implementation of a series of five year anti-corruption plans for the next two decades as we were introducing the 2003 CPI.

The K-PACT, which encourages all four major sectors of our society to coalesce for fight against corruption, is a tangible representation of the holistic approach. It is important to remember that there is no panacea for corruption. The individuals who make up a sector and the society at large must proactively construct the integrity system.

3.      Coalition-building

Who should lead the anti-corruption movement? The majority of Koreans think that the civil society should lead and the public and private sectors be subject to its surveillance. We must not underestimate efforts of the bureaucrats who aspire to increase transparency, integrity and accountability. Similarly, the private sector now endeavors towards ethical governance. The political sector has joined this society-wide movement. The fruition of this coalition was the K-PACT, which is a significant stride because people’s double standard- that the public and private sectors should be watched by the civil society- precluded any chances of coalition in the past.

We have also emphasized internal, autonomous surveillance of corruption and construction of integrity system by the proactive members of each sector. The task of eliminating corruption is not that of the law enforcement alone. Coalition-building is thus an inclusive and collective approach.

4.      A new paradigm for anti-corruption movement

As aforementioned, a new paradigm is crucial. The following is a checklist of elements to be considered:

1)      Are preventive measures given as much attention as the punitive measures?

2)      Is internal control of corruption sufficiently emphasized in comparison to external oversight?

3)      Is the top-down approach combined with the bottom-up approach?

4)      Have long-term sustainable measures replaced the short-term superficial measures?

5)      Is there real content in the anti-corruption policies and institutions?

6)      Is anti-corruption movement just a void slogan, far short of achieving an actual social consensus?

7)      Are we too hung up on individual cases of corruption and neglecting the fundamental socio-cultural problems?

8)      Are we too focused on accusations rather than participation and cooperation?

9)      Is there a double standard where we only criticize those on the receiving end of bribery?

10)  Is international cooperation to curb corruption being ignored?

The past paradigm comprised of investigation and prosecution by the law enforcement of particular cases, top-down approach with empty slogans and hype, and short-term superficial policies. All of these needs to be replaced with a new paradigm, which will focus on preventive measures through the whistleblowers, overcoming the corruption-friendly culture, bottom-up approach with long-term sustainable policies that contain real content and can attain social consensus.

5.      Conclusion

Holistic approach and coalition-building of three sectors- public, private and civil society- has been considered meritorious in many of the international conferences featuring TI, OECD, IACC, UN and the Global Forum. The TI Chairperson Peter Eigen said at the 6th Global Forum that many of the high ranking officials such as President Roh, USG Ocampo and President Lula all strive for transparency and that he would like to call it the “Seoul Consensus.” Likewise, TI Korea will make our utmost efforts to implement this consensus. There is no other way to fight corruption other than a long-term commitment of every individual in the society.