

Inside

- Activity Report 2001 of Transparency International – Korea
- Current Situation of Korean Anti-Corruption Movement
- Special Report: Survey on the Seoul City's OPEN System
- Corruption/Anti-Corruption News in Korea (April)

Activity Report 2001 (abstr.) TI – Korea

Integrity Pacts

In accordance with the recommendation of TI to adopt the Integrity Pacts (IP) in public procurement, TI-Korea is continuously urging the implementation of the IP. As its results, the Dongjak District Office of the Seoul Metropolitan Government (SMG) adopted the IP for the first time in Korea (Mar. 2000). Furthermore the SMG itself (Jul. 2000) and Dalseo District Office of the Taegu Metropolitan Government followed TI's guidance by accepting the IP. All HQs and branches of TI-Korea are giving recommendations for every municipalities acceptance of IP. Public Procurement Service of Korean government will also implement IP in the near future.

Peoples Shinmungo

TI-Korea manages the "People's *Shinmungo*" where anyone can report cases of corruption, and receive and give advice about how to fight against corruption. The "People's *Shinmungo*" takes three forms - regional centers that people can visit, the internet, and a mobile "People's *Shinmungo*" in the form of a bus which travels to various sites. Good examples of the use of "People's *Shinmungo*" and their results will be published in the *Shinmungo* web site and as a book also. In 2000, we received over 600 cases through those 3 kinds of *Shinmungos*.

Originally, "*Shinmungo*" was the name of the big drum located in front of the royal palace in past Korean history. If anyone who had suffered heavily by corruption or had been falsely accused, hit the drum, he or she could tell the story directly to the king.

Evaluation of Candidates and Promoting Participation in Elections

Evaluation of Candidates and Promoting Participation in Elections

For the general election of April 13th, TI-Korea organized 'the Voters Movement for Evaluation of Candidates and Participation in the Elections'. Last year, TI-Korea contributed to the amendment of Korean election laws by requesting the disclosure of past criminal records of candidates. Accordingly, records providing background information about the candidates were revealed to the public for this election, and will be provided in future elections as well. Taking these into account, TI-Korea developed an evaluation sheet by which voters can rank candidates and consequently choose the best candidate, thus fully participating in the election. A source at the National Election Commission expressed the view that this was one of the best way of activities in the voters' movement.

The Policy Committee

TI-Koreas Policy Committee, composed with 32 members of scholars, researchers, managers of

private businesses, government officers and activists, proposes anti-corruption policies and prepares ways to structure the national anti-corruption system.

Indices and Awards

Establishing the Korean Anti-Corruption Awards
TI-Korea established Anti-Corruption Awards for private persons, including whistle-blowers, organizations, companies and media programs that have fought against corruption. The main goal of establishing the Korean Anti-Corruption Awards is to promote consensus against corruption and increase active participation in the anti-corruption movement.

SEACSI 2001

TI-Korea is preparing to hold an anti-corruption fair in December of this year in which the private and public sectors and civil society can participate. On this occasion governmental bodies, public enterprises, private enterprises, economic organizations and civil society as well, will exhibit their most effective practices for anti-corruption. The intention of the exhibition is to promote possible benchmarking between them ■

Current Situation Of the Korean Anti-Corruption Movement

For a long time in Korea the corruption problem were regarded as a deviation from the lack of public officer's personal ethical consciousness and morality. It led to the emphasis on exposure of irregularities and punishment, but after the intensive control same types of corruption were repeated. With the passage of time, at last in 1998 the efforts to build national anti-corruption system were taken. In 2000 there were also effort to change the atmosphere of corruption and system, while grand corruption scandals such as high-ranking officials' pressure for loan, and some venture companies' illegal funds raising and embezzlement attracted considerable public attention.

However it is obvious the effort to build a national anti-corruption system is forming a main stream in anti-corruption movement. Especially in 2000 the Korean the NGOs coalesced themselves into the Citizens'

Coalition for Clean Parliament Election to solve the corruption of the politics considered one of the most serious problem of Korea by Korean people. It initiated the nationwide campaign for 'defeating the corrupt candidates and rejecting nominees for them' in January 2000. This campaign was backed far and wide by Korean who thinks the corruption in politics must be "uprooted". 59 candidates from 86(68.8%) 'nominated' by the Citizens' Coalition for Clean Parliament Election as corrupt were defeated in the election. Though it was criticized in the point that the campaign as negative one(contra, not pro) was negative enough to overcome the disillusionment and indifference of people with and towards politics, but it is of great importance that the corrupt politicians can be 'punished' by citizens.

The government recognizing the need of national corruption control strategy is going ahead since August 2000 with the 'Comprehensive Plan to Prevent Corruption'(CPPC). The Office of the Prime Minister is taking the lead in this Plan. CPPC bases on 3 principles. First, it underlines prevention rather than ex post facto punishment. Second, it takes comprehensive and systematic approach to solve the corruption problem. Third, to win the accountability of citizen it try to find the policies which is applicable to In the second stage in 2000 this plan shows establishment of preventive measures against corruption and it's implementation in seven areas, education, corruption in local level, budget, procurement, financing small-medium industries, subsidy for facilities related to social-welfare and free access to administrative information.

Regarding preparation and improvement of law system for prevention of corruption, the government's and opposition's parties, and NGOs brought Anti-Corruption Law and Preventive Law of Money Laundry in parliament which will be voted in this month April. Despite its long process of debate it was not easy because of political interests conflict to reach a agreement, but the establishment of anti-corruption law is irreparable.

Further with the Seoul cities' introduction of Integrity Pacts in July 2000, many local governments and public enterprises are introducing it and Public Procurement Service (PPS) is preparing for its introduction. Though there are some points to be complemented, for example extension of citizen's participation and

its control over the process, of contract's implementation are continually enlarged.

Since 1999 some institutions and NGOs began to publicize corruption indices that are significant to find the cause and provide the solution of corruption by showing its extend and trend.

For the first time in Korea, TI Korea publicized a result of research in August 2000 whether the companies ranked in the highest top 30 in regard to sales size have Code of Conduct(business ethics). The findings revealed only 8 of this 30 companies have Code of Conduct. This research raised widely the need to establish Code of Conduct and educate employees by it and to set up secretariat for Code of Conduct in the company. After the publication of TI Korea's research the number of companies having Code of Conduct is increasing.

And TI Korea held a semi-expo for "Clean Korea 21-1st Forum for making clean society". In this forum government's bodies, companies and NGOs displayed their model cases and systems to (have) prevent corruption through which each sector can promote benchmarking as a tool to create more effective anti-corruption system. This forum also presented a new model for 'Anti-Corruption Governance' in which the government, company, and NGO actively take part. ■

**Special Report: Survey
on the Seoul City's OPEN System**

1. Transparency International Korea carried out a survey of public opinion on the Online Procedures Enhancement for Civil Applications (OPEN) on October 12-14 last year. The OPEN system is currently being implemented by the administration of Seoul City. On the basis of random sampling, 1,000 respondents were selected from adult residents of Seoul.

2. The major findings are as follows:
(* margin of error is $\pm 3.25\%$)

1) Those who answered positive to the question of whether the city administration made an effort to ensure administrative transparency and to reduce corruption take the lead with 45.6%, greatly exceeding

the 15.1% who answered negative.

2) 55% of the respondents answered that they knew or heard of the OPEN system. On the question of whether they have any intention of using it in the future, 72% answered "Yes, if necessary" or "Yes, I will use it actively."

3) The degree of satisfaction respondents felt with the city and district offices' processing of civil petitions recorded 60.8 out of 100. The results do not deviate very much from the average grade given to 6 administrative services in surveys conducted by Gallup at the request of Seoul city. (62.2 in the second half and 62.1 in the first)

4) Among the respondents, 9.4% answered that they have used the OPEN system before. And among those who have submitted civil petitions before (74.0%), the percentage of OPEN system users records a higher 12.3%. Considering that the OPEN system was introduced only one and a half years ago, it has secured a relatively large user group.

5) The respondents pointed out the merits of the OPEN system as follows: easy access(29.3%), reduced time taken for civil processes(26.9%), and greater administrative transparency(25.1%). These seem attributable to links opening up administrative work process and enabling real time monitoring of civil petition processing, and to the provision of e-mail addresses of officers in charge.

6) Among the respondents who have used the OPEN system, those who showed a degree of satisfaction ("very satisfied" and "satisfied") accounted for some 66%, while those who were dissatisfied took up a much lower percentage of 4.1%.

7) Furthermore, 80.8% of the respondents answered that the OPEN system served to reduce civil petition processing time, and 70.0% believed that it would help prevent irregularities.

3. Nevertheless, some problems were pointed out as follows:

1) Difficulty in searching for information(38.3%), inconvenience in using the links(26.3%) or the user manual(21%). Users also pointed out the need to make available a greater variety of services(13.8%).

2) Some respondents also indicated that the OPEN system needs to be more widely publicized and that more concrete information should be made accessible

in order to improve transparency. Continued efforts should be made toward development and improvement to enhance user-friendliness.

4. In conclusion, the results of the survey on citizens' perception of Seoul City's OPEN system show a positive overall impression recording 67.3 points. But it also highlights future challenges: launching wide and active publicity, securing easier access and removing the digital divide between lower and high income groups which may disadvantage the former.

Tools and Methods of analysis

1. This is an analysis of the results of the survey on the OPEN system run by Seoul City administration. TI Korea Chapter (Chairperson: Kim Sung-Su, President of Sung-Kong-Hoe University) conducted the survey among 1,000 people living in Seoul, based on random sampling.

2. The questionnaire of the survey is divided into various items to discover what the citizens think of the OPEN system: the extent of citizens' knowledge of the system, its efficiency, evaluation of its functions, desired improvements, recommendations and so on.

3. We made a detailed analysis of the survey findings, classifying respondents according to gender, level of education, etc. Through this, we were able to discover the general impression Seoul citizens have of the OPEN system. In addition, by analyzing the extent of public awareness of the OPEN system and its major user group, we obtained the basic information needed to make further improvements on the system and to broaden its user groups.

4. The sample was 1,000 Seoul residents, picked out at random from 10 of the city's 25 districts.

5. The survey was carried out by trained researchers through personal interviews. After due consideration of the feasibility and accountability of the 1,000 interviews, 939 were analyzed as valid samples.

6. Because there were relatively few respondents who used the OPEN system (88 persons), 32 persons who were making use of the system were added to the sample from question 7 onwards. These 32 persons

were not included in question 6 regarding actual usage of the system.

7. Programs used in the analysis were 'SPSS' and 'Excel.' Pi graphs were used to show frequencies and cross-analysis diagrams to show group differences.

Basic Information about the data

The total number of respondents is 939. Men accounted for 572 (60.9%), and women 367(39.1%). With regard to education, there were 55 (5.9%) who had finished middle school or below, 222 (30.6%) high school graduates, 141 (15%) college students, 426 (45.4%) college graduates, and 29 (3%) with post-graduate degrees.

Men took up a higher percentage of the respondents than women, and there was a relatively higher percentage of high school and college graduates. ■

Corruption/Anti-Corruption News in Korea (April)

Best 3 Anti-corruption News were:

1) Arrest of No-Hang Park, one important criminal in corruption cases of military service area, 2) Launch of an Alliance of NGO's for Democratization in School and 3) Cheju City was selected as the most transparent in municipal taxation area by PCAC(Presidential Commission for Anti-Corruption).

Worst 3 Corruption News were:

1) Delay in legislation of Anti-Corruption Bill and Anti Money Laundering Bill, 2) Some parliament members' trial for exception of political fund in Anti Money Laundering Bill and 3) Systematic corruption in relation with Sung-Yoon Cho, the superintendent of education in Kyonggi Province.

Impressum

Transparency International-Korea (South)

#508 KEB, 136-56 Yonji-Dong,
Chongno-Ku, Seoul 110-740, Korea

Tel: 82-2-708-5858

Fax: 82-2-708-5859

E-Mail: ti@ti.or.kr

Website: <http://ti.or.kr/>

Editor: Geo-Sung Kim (gs@ti.or.kr)