

Item (f): whether it is the policy of the ICAC to strengthen its liaison with the Mainland authorities; if so, when such a policy was implemented and in what aspects, and whether there is any document to substantiate such.

The Mutual Case Assistance Scheme was set up between the Guangdong Provincial People's Procuratorate and the ICAC in 1988, under which anti-graft officers are arranged to meet witnesses in corruption cases across the border. Similar arrangements for provinces other than Guangdong have been co-ordinated by the Supreme People's Procuratorate (SPP) since March 2000.

2. On 5 February 1997, the Hong Kong Mainland Liaison Office of the CRD was set up to deal with all non-operational liaison of the ICAC with counterparts on the Mainland and the Macao SAR.

3. The HKSAR Government was informed by the Office of the Commissioner of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region on 6 February 2006 that the Central People's Government had ratified the United Nations Convention Against Corruption (UNCAC). The Convention entered into force for China on 12 February 2006 and shall apply to the HKSAR in accordance with the provisions of Article 153 of the Basic Law of the HKSAR. The HKSAR Government was also informed at the same time that the ICAC was designated as the authority to assist other States Parties in developing and implementing specific measures for the prevention of corruption in accordance with the provisions of paragraph 3 of Article 6 of the Convention.

4. Because of the application of the Convention, the SPP established the International Association of Anti-Corruption Authorities (IAACA) in 2006 and the Ministry of Supervision (MoS) set up the National Bureau of Corruption Prevention in 2007. Therefore, there is a need for the ICAC to strengthen its contact with the SPP and its system of procuratorates and step up co-operation with the MoS. The contact between the MoS, the CRD and the Corruption Prevention Department has intensified as a result.

5. In December 2009, the Citizens Advisory Committee on Community Relations endorsed a new work strategy to reposition the Mainland liaison work of the CRD in three different directions, namely furtherance and widening of co-operation and exchange with anti-corruption agencies and associated anti-corruption research units on the Mainland; greater co-operation on preventive education; and greater co-operation with the media on the Mainland in promoting a culture of probity.