

Legislative Council Panel on Security

**The Chief Executive's 2025 Policy Address
Brief Report and Policy Measures
Independent Commission Against Corruption**

PURPOSE

This paper gives an overview of Hong Kong's corruption situation in the first eight months of 2025, reports the work of the Independent Commission Against Corruption (ICAC) during the same period, and outlines the ICAC's anti-corruption initiatives and other major priorities in alignment with the 2025 Policy Address.

CORRUPTION SCENE

2. The corruption situation in Hong Kong continued to be well under control. A drop was recorded across the board in complaints concerning the government sector, public bodies and the private sector. In the first eight months of the year, the ICAC received 1 094 corruption complaints (excluding election complaints¹), of which 872 were pursuable complaints. The figures represented a decrease of 223 complaints and 178 pursuable complaints, both down by 17% as compared to the figures in the same period of 2024.

3. During the period, 120 persons were prosecuted in 56 cases, compared to 113 persons in 56 cases in the same period of 2024. The person-based and case-based conviction rates were 79% and 84% respectively.

Government Sector and Public Bodies

4. In general, the civil service and public bodies in Hong Kong remained clean, with a high level of integrity. Corruption complaints involving government bureaux/departments (B/Ds) registered a year-on-year decrease of 12% (from 306 to 268), with pursuable complaints down by 11% (from 217 to 194). Corruption complaints concerning public bodies recorded a decrease of 22% (from 91 to 71), with pursuable complaints down by 26% (from 73 to 54). During the period, four government servants were prosecuted and 13 formally cautioned for corruption and related offences. On the

¹ Unless otherwise specified, the figures on complaints and cases mentioned in this document are unrelated to the Elections (Corrupt and Illegal Conduct) Ordinance.

recommendation of the Operations Review Committee, cases involving alleged misconduct of 33 government servants were forwarded to the B/Ds concerned for consideration of disciplinary and/or administrative action. Meanwhile, six employees of public bodies were prosecuted.

Private Sector

5. Corruption complaints concerning the private sector registered a year-on-year decrease of 18% (from 920 to 755), with pursuable complaints also down by 18% (from 760 to 624). The three subsectors attracting the most complaints continued to be Building Management (down from 322 to 262 complaints), Finance and Insurance (down from 91 to 90 complaints), and Construction Industry (down from 120 to 86 complaints).

MAJOR PRIORITIES

(I) Promoting International and Mainland Collaboration Against Corruption

6. The ICAC fully leverages the distinctive advantage of “having strong support from the Motherland and close connection with the world” under the “One Country, Two Systems” principle to continuously deepen international exchange and cooperation. In various global anti-corruption surveys, Hong Kong has continued to hold top rankings². This year, the ICAC continued to fortify the anti-graft tripartite partnership formed with the Hong Kong International Academy Against Corruption (HKIAAC) and the International Association of Anti-Corruption Authorities (IAACA)³, giving full play to its synergy to strengthen international collaboration and reinforce strategic partnership with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC). Meanwhile, the ICAC also joined hands with anti-corruption agencies (ACAs) worldwide under the framework of the United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC) to combat corruption. In an effort to contribute to the nation’s strategic development, the ICAC was actively engaged in the building of a clean Belt and Road (B&R) and a clean Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area (GBA).

² Hong Kong was ranked the 4th among 69 economies under the criterion of “bribery and corruption do not exist” in the “World Competitiveness Yearbook 2025” released by the International Institute for Management Development, and the 10th out of 142 jurisdictions under the factor of “absence of corruption” in the “2024 World Justice Project Rule of Law Index”. Moreover, Hong Kong’s standing as the 17th least corrupt place among 180 countries and territories was reaffirmed in the “Corruption Perceptions Index 2024” released by the Transparency International in January this year.

³ Since the ICAC Commissioner assumed Presidency of IAACA in early 2022, the IAACA Secretariat has been established under the ICAC to promote the effective implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption and assist anti-corruption agencies worldwide in preventing and combatting corruption. 190 ACAs around the world have become IAACA members to date.

Hong Kong International Academy Against Corruption

7. Since its establishment in February 2024, the HKIAAC has been committed to serving as an international anti-corruption training platform, offering professional training to ACAs worldwide, enhancing graft-fighting capabilities of places around the globe, and telling the good stories of Hong Kong in upholding the rule of law and fighting corruption.

8. In the first eight months of this year, 15 international anti-corruption training programmes were organised by the HKIAAC, attracting approximately 1 700 participants from about 70 countries and territories. Among them were capacity building programmes conducted in Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Hungary, Saudi Arabia, Sri Lanka, Thailand and the United Arab Emirates, which were tailored for the local ACAs. Meanwhile, various thematic training programmes were also conducted in Hong Kong for graft fighters worldwide, such as the “Professional Development Programme on Financial Investigation and Asset Recovery” co-organised for a second time with the UNODC in February. More programmes will be organised including the “Mastering Artificial Intelligence and Technologies” programme in October and the “Leadership and Executive Development Programme” in November. As part of the programmes, a study visit to the Mainland has been arranged for participants to learn about the Mainland’s development and anti-corruption initiatives.

9. The HKIAAC also played an active role in enhancing the corruption prevention and governance capabilities of government departments, public and private organisations, and various industries in Hong Kong. In the first eight months of this year, eight anti-corruption and ethical leadership courses were offered to managerial staff from the banking industry, managers of public works, officers of regulatory bodies, corporate executives, and the sports sector, etc., benefitting over 500 individuals.

10. As an anti-corruption academic research exchange platform, the HKIAAC signed on the same day it was established Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) with Peking University, Tsinghua University, the University of Macau, the University of Hong Kong, and the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology. Currently, the HKIAAC is facilitating various anti-corruption research projects with these universities, focusing on the theme of integrity and compliance in the banking, securities, and construction industries.

Leading International Association of Anti-Corruption Authorities

11. As the President of IAACA, the ICAC Commissioner continued to lead IAACA in promoting and advancing the effective implementation of the UNCAC, expanding Hong Kong's pivotal role in the international anti-corruption arena. This March, IAACA was invited for the first time to participate in the G20 Anti-Corruption Working Group Meeting in South Africa, where it presented its key achievements to the international community and engaged in in-depth discussions with representatives from ACAs of various countries. This not only reflected the high international recognition of the ICAC's and IAACA's efforts, but also created a crucial opportunity for future anti-corruption collaboration. Furthermore, IAACA launched its thematic online seminar series to assist ACAs around the world in enhancing their capacity to prevent and combat corruption. The three online seminars held so far covered the topics of leveraging artificial intelligence to combat crimes, digital and forensic accounting techniques, and sports integrity, attracting a total of approximately 1 800 participants from ACAs worldwide.

12. This May marked the first anniversary of IAACA's adoption of the *Hong Kong Declaration on Strengthening International Cooperation in Preventing and Fighting Corruption*. During an IAACA meeting and on other international occasions, members of the IAACA Executive Committee shared the achievements attained over the past year under the initiatives of the *Hong Kong Declaration*.

13. In December, IAACA will hold its General Meeting and Annual Conference during the 11th Session of the Conference of the States Parties to the UNCAC to be held in Doha, Qatar, whereby it will collaborate with ACAs worldwide to promote international cooperation and deepen anti-corruption exchange. This will be the first time IAACA holds its General Meeting and Annual Conference overseas since the ICAC Commissioner assumed presidency, and support is received from the UNODC and the Administrative Control and Transparency Authority of Qatar as co-organisers of the Annual Conference.

Cooperation with UNODC

14. The UNODC is a key strategic partner of the ICAC in international cooperation. On the basis of the MoU signed in May last year, the two joined hands to advance the global anti-corruption cause by supporting ACAs worldwide in enhancing their anti-corruption capabilities.

15. The ICAC partnered with the UNODC to organise an anti-corruption capacity building programme tailored for the Office of Public Sector Anti-Corruption Commission of Thailand in May this year, benefitting over 150 graft fighters and police officers. This programme marked the first-time collaboration between the ICAC and the Hong Kong Police Force to share in Thailand the success of Hong Kong's transformation from a place plagued by corruption to a city of probity through collaboration across government departments, and at the same time, promote Hong Kong's rule of law and integrity culture. Moving forward, the ICAC will continue to cooperate with other government departments and make outreaching efforts to enhance international cooperation and tell the good stories of Hong Kong.

16. The *Policy Guide on Meaningful Youth Engagement in Anti-Corruption Work* co-developed by the ICAC, the UNODC and IAACA in 2023 offered practical guidelines to ACAs worldwide on youth engagement for the anti-corruption cause. In January this year, the ICAC partnered with the Anti-Corruption Bureau of Brunei Darussalam to launch the first-ever capacity building programme on "Meaningful Youth Engagement in Anti-corruption Work" in Brunei, aiming to enhance the capacity of the local ACA in mobilising youth participation in promoting integrity. In July, the ICAC joined hands with the UNODC, IAACA and the Office of the National Anti-Corruption Commission of Thailand to conduct a regional anti-corruption training programme in Thailand, with a view to further deepening youth engagement efforts in seven ASEAN member states and promoting multifaceted anti-graft collaboration in the Asia-Pacific region. This programme was participated by over 200 representatives of anti-corruption and law enforcement agencies.

17. To foster anti-corruption awareness among youth, inspire innovation, promote digital corruption prevention and encourage international collaboration, the ICAC, the UNODC and IAACA jointly hosted in Hong Kong a one-week programme entitled "Coding4Integrity Asian Youth Anti-Corruption Hackathon" in September. It provided a platform for exchange among young participants from Hong Kong and more than ten Asian countries and territories (including various B&R countries), motivating them to combine creativity and technology in the design of innovative programmes for preventing and combatting corruption in different fields. With participation of students from multiple tertiary institutions of Hong Kong, the "Hackathon" fully demonstrated the enthusiasm of local youth in fighting corruption. It also included a visit to the Mainland for participants to gain an understanding of our nation's cutting-edge technological developments and anti-corruption initiatives. The winning team will present their design at the UNCAC State Parties Conference to be held in Qatar.

18. Separately, the ICAC is co-developing with the UNODC the *Corruption Risk Management Guide for Prison Systems*, which analyses corruption risks in prison systems worldwide with corruption prevention advice offered. An expert panel comprising prison administrators and criminology scholars from various jurisdictions will hold its meetings in Hong Kong and study the local correctional facilities and corruption prevention measures. The Guide is expected to be launched at a crime prevention conference of the United Nations in April next year.

19. To enhance cooperation among ACAs in preventing and combatting corruption, the Global Operational Network of Anti-Corruption Law Enforcement Authorities (GlobE Network) was established in 2021 under the support of the UNODC. Actively and deeply engaged in the work of the GlobE Network, the ICAC had attended many meetings and plenary meetings of the GlobE Network Steering Committee, contributing to strengthening global anti-corruption ties and fostering law enforcement collaboration.

Deepening International Cooperation and Building a Clean B&R

20. The ICAC is committed to deepening international exchange and cooperation. Through its “reaching out” and “welcoming in” strategy, the ICAC shares Hong Kong’s anti-corruption experience with its counterparts from B&R countries and the rest of the world, in an effort to contribute to the building of a clean B&R.

21. In February and April this year, the ICAC Commissioner led delegations to various Middle East countries and ASEAN member states, including Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia and Singapore, to facilitate exchange and strengthen collaboration with local ACAs. MoUs were also signed during the year with ACAs of Hungary and the United Arab Emirates to establish a more robust cooperation framework and enhance the effectiveness of graft-fighting efforts⁴. In parallel, the ICAC also actively participated in various international conferences to share its latest anti-corruption strategies with counterparts around the globe.

22. Under its “welcoming in” strategy, the ICAC had received high-level delegations from ACAs of various countries including Georgia, Hungary, Kenya, Mali, Republic of Korea, Singapore, Sri Lanka, the United Arab Emirates and Zambia this year. During their visits, the delegations not

⁴ Since last year, the ICAC has entered into nine MoUs with ACAs or international organisations of various countries, including ACAs of Hungary, Indonesia, Kazakhstan, Maldives, Mauritius, the United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia and South Africa, and also the UNODC.

only gained an in-depth understanding of Hong Kong's anti-corruption strategies, but also discussed further cooperation.

Mainland Collaboration and Promoting Integrity in GBA

23. During the year, the ICAC Commissioner led delegations to Beijing, Shaanxi and Tianjin to meet with leaders from the National Commission of Supervision, the Shaanxi Provincial Commission of Supervision and the Tianjin Municipal Commission of Supervision respectively, to exchange views on deepening practical cooperation between the HKSAR and the Mainland and strengthening cross-boundary liaison in the fight against corruption. The Commissioner also led a delegation to Macao to meet with the Commissioner of the Commission Against Corruption and the Director of the Judiciary Police, to exchange views on jointly promoting integrity in the GBA and combatting cross-boundary crimes.

24. As our country promotes the development and economic growth of the GBA, it is important for Guangdong, Hong Kong and Macao to cooperate in building a clean business environment. Under the support and coordination of the National Commission of Supervision, the Guangdong Provincial Commission of Supervision, the ICAC and the Commission Against Corruption of Macao are co-developing a guide on doing business with integrity in the GBA to provide anti-corruption guidance for enterprises in the area.

(II) Maintaining a Clean Society

25. The ICAC is committed to reducing corruption risks in different areas in society through robust law enforcement, systemic prevention and publicity and education, with special emphasis on issues of public concern and matters related to socio-economic development, people's livelihood or public safety. The major areas of work are as follows:

Public Administration and Integrity Management

26. Members of the public have high expectations for the integrity of public officers. Although corruption complaints concerning government departments and public bodies have decreased with no sign of resurgence of syndicated corruption, the ICAC remains vigilant and committed to maintaining a high standard of integrity in the public service.

27. One of the key initiatives of the ICAC in recent years is to promote the use of information technology by B/Ds in corruption prevention. Apart from formulating targeted digital prevention plans for various government departments and public organisations through assignment studies, the ICAC also strengthened collaboration with industries, and promoted the implementation and application of digital prevention measures through training and exchange activities.

28. An effective internal audit and control system forms the cornerstone of good governance, as it helps prevent corruption and other misconduct. To enhance the ability of government internal auditors in reviewing the control systems of their respective B/Ds, a series of tools and training programmes are being developed to assist B/Ds in further optimising their internal control systems, thereby strengthening their corruption prevention capabilities.

29. In addition, the ICAC continued to adopt a holistic approach by offering integrity training to civil servants at all levels. In response to public concerns over specific corruption cases, the ICAC proactively organised additional training for the departments concerned. Meanwhile, the ICAC continued to partner with the Civil Service Bureau in implementing the “Ethical Leadership Programme”, assisting the senior management staff in the role of Ethics Officers with formulating and implementing integrity management initiatives in their respective B/Ds, in a bid to fortify the probity culture in the civil service. In October, the ICAC will organise an annual workshop for about 130 Ethics Officers, to share the latest anti-corruption information and enhance integrity governance in B/Ds.

30. The ICAC will also continue to promote preventive education among public bodies, encouraging them to strengthen integrity management. New online live-streaming integrity seminars have been launched to expand the coverage on public bodies and public servants, further enhancing their awareness of corruption and malpractice.

Building Maintenance and Management

31. Building maintenance and management is directly connected with the daily lives of the general public. The ICAC spared no effort to crack down on the corrupt within the industry⁵, and conducted where appropriate joint

⁵ In September 2023, following the large-scale enforcement operation “Fire Net” mounted early that year, the ICAC laid charges against 23 individuals, including project contractors and consultants, members of owners’ corporations/owners’ committees, intermediaries and staff members of property management companies, for conspiracy to offer and accept advantages and conspiracy to defraud. The case involved various building

operations with regulatory bodies such as the Competition Commission against corruption and related crimes like bid-rigging. In June this year, the ICAC took the lead in hosting the first-ever territory-wide Building Management Summit in collaboration with other government departments and organisations, gathering over 300 representatives from relevant government departments, regulatory bodies and professional bodies, District Council members from all 18 districts, property management professionals, owners' corporation representatives and flats owners for practical exchanges. For this Summit, the ICAC specially produced a new training video and the *Building Maintenance Guide* to offer practical guidance to the public for identifying corruption risks, and to provide them with channels for seeking assistance.

32. Furthermore, the ICAC will continue to engage with building management bodies, district governance teams and flat owners through various channels such as visits, seminars, and workshops to explain to them the anti-corruption laws, and to encourage owners' corporations to enhance transparency and strengthen communication with flat owners. The ICAC has also established an enquiry hotline and a thematic website to facilitate access to the latest anti-corruption resources by the public. At the same time, the ICAC will continue to provide online and offline training for property management practitioners and distribute e-newsletters through the "Integrity Property Management League" to sustain their awareness of integrity issues.

Finance and Insurance Industries

33. With the full support of the Hong Kong Monetary Authority and the Hong Kong Association of Banks, the ICAC launched the Banking Industry Integrity Charter in October last year, under which participating banks pledged to establish a code of conduct, appoint an Integrity Officer to assist in implementing good governance, make timely reports of suspected corruption to the ICAC, etc., thereby promoting an integrity culture in the industry and sustaining Hong Kong's status as an international financial centre. A professional anti-corruption training course for Integrity Officers of subscriber banks was conducted in March this year. Nearly all licensed banks (146, accounting for 98% of the total) have participated in the Charter to date.

34. Following the ICAC's operation "Arrow Shower"⁶ which unveiled the acceptance of bribes by bank staff for assisting an intermediary in deceiving the banks in relation to mortgage applications, the ICAC issued red

management and maintenance projects of 10 residential and commercial buildings, with contract sums totalling about \$520 million and bribe payments totally over \$6.5 million.

⁶ In the enforcement operation codenamed "Arrow Shower" mounted in March this year, the ICAC arrested 22 individuals, including 18 employees of 10 banks who allegedly accepted bribes totalling \$2 million for assisting an intermediary in deceiving the banks in over 200 mortgage applications.

flags for corruption risks to all banks and recommended corresponding corruption prevention measures to them in July this year. The ICAC also collaborated with the Hong Kong Association of Banks in organising thematic webinars on mortgage applications in August and September to enhance the industry's vigilance.

35. The ICAC continued to strengthen its cooperation with regulators of the finance and insurance industries in combatting corruption and related crimes. In recent years, through the signing of MoUs, cooperation has been successfully regularised in the areas of case referral, joint investigation, training and information exchange, leading to enhanced effectiveness.

Listed Companies and Corporate Governance

36. In addition to providing integrity training for listed companies' directors, senior executives and employees at different levels, the ICAC has long been collaborating with different professional organisations to promote corporate governance. Since January, the ICAC has significantly increased the number of webinars to meet the integrity training needs of enterprises. This year marks an important milestone for the ICAC's Hong Kong Business Ethics Development Centre as it celebrates the 30th anniversary. Apart from sustaining collaboration with the business sector to promote business ethics and reinforce the culture of integrity, the Centre also actively expanded its network of member chambers and strengthened liaison and cooperation with them. Its efforts included inviting members of the International Business Committee to join the Hong Kong Business Ethics Development Advisory Committee, and arranging for them to visit the ICAC and exchange with ICAC officers, with an aim to deepen their understanding of Hong Kong's fair and clean business environment, and encourage them to relay the current situations of Hong Kong to their local and overseas member companies.

37. Currently, the ICAC is compiling a practical guide on "Integrity and Compliance Management System" and is producing a series of templates and online tools to assist listed companies in strengthening governance capabilities. The System, which covers areas such as integrity policy and code of conduct, and integrity risk management, is suitable for adoption by various industries, and it has been incorporated in the *Corporate Governance Guide for Boards and Directors* by the Hong Kong Exchanges and Clearing Limited. To promote the System, the ICAC will collaborate with regulatory bodies and stakeholders to initiate publicity and training programmes next year.

Construction Industry

38. The ICAC continued to pay attention to the corruption risks in the works control system. In addition to strict law enforcement, timely intervention was also carried out to combat corruption and unlawful conduct, review the relevant construction and supervision processes and plug corruption loopholes. In the ICAC's enforcement operation "War Drum"⁷ mounted in May this year, corruption and fraud were uncovered in a private development project involving rebar fixing works. Subsequently, the ICAC provided the Buildings Department with a host of recommendations, including enhancing procedures and record-keeping compliance for quality supervision, strengthening integrity capabilities of practitioners, and optimising control procedures by leveraging technology. The ICAC will closely monitor the implementation of these recommendations.

39. The coming few years will be a peak period for government infrastructure projects. Through analysis and integration of research findings on overseas and local project governance practices, the ICAC has developed an "Integrity Management Framework for Infrastructure Projects", which comprises three principles and 14 requirements underpinned by a host of good practices to enhance integrity management as well as cost, time and quality management for the projects. The ICAC is working with the Development Bureau and relevant public bodies to run a pilot trial of the Framework and develop a practical guide to be launched in the fourth quarter of 2026. It will also share the pilot results and application experience regarding the Framework with other countries.

40. The ICAC will sustain its efforts in arranging integrity training for contractors, subcontractors, managers and site supervisors involved in public and private works projects through government works departments, public bodies, construction companies and associations of the industry such as the Construction Industry Council and the Hong Kong Institute of Construction. Furthermore, in response to last year's enforcement operation "Rocket Gun"⁸ and the risks of professional qualifications being obtained through corruption or fraud, the ICAC actively collaborated with the Labour Department to organise integrity seminars for instructors and participants of the "Mandatory

⁷ In the enforcement operation codenamed "War Drum" mounted in May this year, the ICAC arrested 10 individuals who allegedly offered bribes to employees of the main contractor and an engineering consultancy firm for lax supervision of steel reinforcement works carried out by subcontractors and conniving at works deviated from the building plans.

⁸ In the enforcement operation codenamed "Rocket Gun" mounted in October last year, the ICAC arrested 111 individuals involved in corrupt dealings over application for works-related professional qualifications. They were suspected of using false employment proof to deceive training course providers approved by the Labour Department, causing the latter to issue professional certificates for operating excavators.

Safety Training Courses” in order to enhance anti-corruption awareness among practitioners.

Labour Importation and Talent Admission Schemes

41. Since the Government enhanced the mechanisms for importing talents and workers in 2023, the ICAC has been offering briefings on anti-corruption laws and distributing information packs to all imported workers. The ICAC has also been visiting quarters or work sites of the workers to meet them face-to-face and urge them to reject any solicitation of bribes and report such to the ICAC. As at August, the ICAC has reached over 48 000 imported workers across various industries. Furthermore, the ICAC is incorporating simple and direct anti-corruption messages into the daily work and living environment of imported workers, such as sharing e-posters in their WeChat groups to maximise publicity.

42. As a result of the ICAC’s publicity and education efforts, quite a few exploited workers chose to lodge complaints in recent years. In the successful prosecutions, those found guilty of bribe solicitation were all imposed custodial sentences by the court. By adopting a zero-tolerance attitude, the ICAC will continue to work closely with the Development Bureau and the Labour Department to tackle the problem of bribe solicitation faced by imported workers.

43. The ICAC also maintained close collaboration with the Hong Kong Talent Engage and other talent services organisations to promote Hong Kong’s probity and integrity culture to incoming talents through organising ICAC visits, hosting sharing sessions and promoting anti-corruption messages in talent exhibitions. In October this year and the first quarter of next year, the ICAC will once again participate in the talent summits to introduce Hong Kong’s edge of probity and anti-corruption initiatives to talents from the Mainland and overseas, as well as those planning to start businesses in Hong Kong. The ICAC will also continue to leverage social media platforms such as WeChat, Weibo and Xiahongshu to disseminate short videos and easy-to-understand messages that highlight the key points of the anti-corruption laws for incoming talents.

Sports Sector

44. In August this year, the ICAC joined hands with the Hong Kong Jockey Club, the Sports Federation & Olympic Committee of Hong Kong, China and the Hong Kong Chartered Governance Institute to form the “Sports Governance and Integrity Alliance”, by which a three-year project was

launched to provide national sports associations with support in various forms such as training, consultancy and subsidies. The Sports Federation & Olympic Committee will facilitate and review the implementation of the *Code of Governance*, which was released at the end of last year, by the national sports associations, while the Hong Kong Jockey Club will provide the key resources for promoting governance reform and subsidise the Hong Kong Chartered Governance Institute in launching the “Sports Governance Programme” to introduce professional corporate governance to the sports sector. Meanwhile, the ICAC will provide corruption prevention advice and training, with an aim to incorporate integrity management and corruption prevention elements in system design. The ICAC expects that with the concerted efforts of the four institutions and the sports sector, a comprehensive and sustainable ecology can be created, thereby enhancing the governance and integrity standard of national sports associations and enabling athletes to realise their potential in a fair and professional environment.

Tertiary Education Institutions (TEIs)

45. Early this year, the ICAC organised a corruption prevention seminar for the management staff of eight TEIs funded by the University Grants Committee. It also launched the *Corruption Prevention Guide on Admission of Students for Tertiary Education Institutions* in mid-year to provide a host of practical recommendations on their student admission procedures, covering the detection of fraudulent academic credentials and leveraging of information technology for corruption prevention. Based on the Guide, the HKIAAC conducted a “Professional Anti-corruption Training for Management Staff of Tertiary Education Institutions” in September. Participated by the management staff of about 40 TEIs, the programme further strengthened the corruption prevention awareness and capabilities of TEIs, fully in line with the government’s policy of developing Hong Kong into an international tertiary education hub.

(III) Promoting Moral Education for Youth

46. Early this year, the ICAC launched its first-ever “Little Coffee Bean Kids Theatre” for kindergartens, teaching children the value of honesty through puppet shows and interactive games featuring the ICAC’s cartoon character “Little Coffee Bean”. The programme attracted participation from over 100 kindergartens, followed by four public performances that reached more than 4 500 participants. As part of the “iJunior Programme for Primary Schools”, the ICAC responded to the Government’s sports promotion initiatives, including the 15th National Games, by developing sports-themed

moral education materials and picture books to support teachers in promoting positive values. Over 250 primary schools participated in the programme during the 2025/26 academic year. Additionally, the ICAC collaborated closely with the Education Bureau to incorporate moral education resources produced by the ICAC in the “Primary Humanities Curriculum Guide”, providing teachers with reference materials aiming to help students learn about the ICAC’s work in the classroom.

47. To enhance young people’s sense of national identity, the ICAC also incorporated elements of national education in the design of teaching materials and activities, including adding elements of Chinese culture in its picture book series, and arranging study visits to the Mainland for secondary and tertiary students participating in the “ICAC ELITE Youth Leadership Programme”, whereby they could gain a deeper understanding of the country’s development and anti-corruption efforts.

(IV) Continuously Innovating Publicity Strategies

Leveraging Social Media to Expand Local and International Influence

48. The ICAC pays close attention to the changes in the pattern of public information consumption and promotes anti-corruption messages extensively on various social media platforms⁹ based on the preferences of different audiences, further broadening its media outreach. Meanwhile, the ICAC also actively deepens cooperation with ACAs and international organisations worldwide through a variety of international platforms, sharing the time-tested strategy of anti-corruption education and successful experience of Hong Kong. To reinforce its leadership role in the global anti-corruption arena and enhance Hong Kong’s reputation as a city of probity, the ICAC also places a high priority on strengthening its overseas publicity efforts.

Innovative Publicity Approach Gains International Recognition

49. The ICAC consistently infuses creativity into its publicity initiatives, leveraging AI technology to produce special effects for delivering anti-corruption messages in a more engaging and dynamic manner. This year, three promotional videos produced in-house by the ICAC, including the promotional video “In the Mood for Coffee” produced for the opening of Café “1974” and an original short film “Coffee War”, clinched a total of 14 accolades at two prestigious international video competitions, namely the

⁹ The social media platforms of the ICAC include Facebook, Instagram, Xiaohongshu, Weibo, WeChat, YouTube, and LinkedIn.

“Questar Awards” and the “Telly Awards”, including the Grand Award in the Special Projects category. In light of the overwhelming public response, the sequel and finale to “Coffee War” will be released later this year to showcase the ICAC’s unwavering commitment to combatting corruption, thereby amplifying the impact of its publicity efforts.

Combining Café “1974” with ICAC Exhibition Hall for an Immersive Anti-Corruption Experience

50. The ICAC is committed to promoting integrity education through innovative approaches. In November last year, Café “1974” was launched at the ICAC Building, integrating education, publicity and the concept of “ICAC coffee” to deliver anti-corruption messages to the public and tourists in a fresh and engaging way. As at August, it has attracted over 140 000 visitors, averaging more than 600 local and overseas guests daily. To sustain its appeal, Café “1974” has hosted themed events such as Christmas and Lunar New Year promotions, campaigns timed with the release of Hong Kong Diploma of Secondary Education Examination results, and an exhibition themed “When Lotus Meets Virtue” held in collaboration with a renowned ink wash painting artist.

51. The ICAC completed an overhaul of its exhibition hall in May. The relaunch ceremony of the exhibition hall was officiated by the Chief Executive. Incorporating a host of innovative technological elements, the overhauled exhibition hall not only showcases Hong Kong’s anti-corruption history and work, but also facilitates real-time content updates and flexible conversion of space into multi-purpose integrity education venues. Its seamless integration with Café “1974” creates an immersive anti-corruption experience for visitors. Since its relaunch, the exhibition hall has attracted over 30 000 visitors. To tie in with the Government’s “Tourism is Everywhere” policy, the ICAC will continue to refine Café “1974” and the exhibition hall, developing them into a distinctive destination for integrity education.

Operation 303

52. In July this year, the ICAC launched the pilot “Operation 303” programme, allowing young people from secondary schools, tertiary institutions and community groups to experience the challenges of investigating corruption cases first-hand, through participation in simulated investigations covering the work of receiving complaints, tracking leads, collecting and analysing evidence, and identifying and arresting suspects, whereby they can learn about the relentless professionalism of ICAC

investigators. After reviewing the outcome of the pilot programme, the ICAC plans to officially launch the activity by the end of this year, opening registration to group participants. There are also plans to expand participation to the public, allowing more citizens to gain a comprehensive understanding of the ICAC's anti-corruption efforts.

(V) Safeguarding Clean Elections

53. Ensuring the integrity of public elections is fundamental to safeguarding the social stability and continuous development of Hong Kong. As always, the ICAC will remain steadfast in supporting and promoting clean elections, sparing no effort to eradicate any corrupt and illegal practices at elections, thus providing a solid foundation for the long-term development of Hong Kong.

54. The Election Committee Subsector By-election was successfully held on 7 September, while the Legislative Council General Election will be held on 7 December. The ICAC will strictly enforce the Elections (Corrupt and Illegal Conduct) Ordinance, and will maintain close liaison with relevant departments and units including the Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau, the Electoral Affairs Commission, the Registration and Electoral Office and the Police Force, to ensure that the election is conducted in a fair, open and honest manner. An inter-departmental working group has been set up within the ICAC to safeguard clean elections through a holistic approach encompassing enforcement, education and prevention. Focuses of its work include: (i) Resolute Enforcement and Timely Intervention – proactively cracking down on any unlawful acts related to election, including acts of election manipulation or sabotage; (ii) “All-embracing” Publicity and Education Campaign – the ICAC has launched a series of publicity and education activities to reach out to candidates, election helpers and voters, reminding them of their obligation to adhere to relevant laws and regulations when participating in election activities; and (iii) Polling Day “general mobilisation” – mobilising all ICAC officers to station at polling stations across the territory and opening regional offices to swiftly handle enquiries and complaints.

Concluding Remarks

55. Building a clean and fair society is a common goal shared by the HKSAR, the country and the world. Through its time-tested three-pronged anti-corruption strategy encompassing law enforcement, prevention and

education, the ICAC will strive to keep Hong Kong clean and fair, prosperous and stable. Meanwhile, the ICAC will continue to leverage the anti-graft tripartite partnership to deepen international collaboration, support the initiatives of building a clean B&R and promoting integrity in the GBA, and tell the good stories of “One Country, Two Systems” and Hong Kong to the international community.

56. Members are invited to note and comment on the above report.

Independent Commission Against Corruption
September 2025