

Energetically Promote the Publicity of Government Affairs, and Constantly Deepen the Work of Corruption Prevention

Presentation at the Regional Seminar on Good Practices in Corruption Prevention
of the ADB/OECD Anti-Corruption Initiative for Asia and the Pacific

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Dear Mr./Ms. Chair, every representative

Ladies and Gentlemen, dear friends:

Good Morning!

It's my pleasure to attend this Regional Seminar on Good Practices in Corruption Prevention of the ADB/OECD Anti-Corruption Initiative for Asia and the Pacific, and exchange experiences and practices in the field of corruption prevention with you. Now, to begin with, I would like to introduce some main initiatives China has taken to prevent corruption, and then I will make a special introduction to the publicity of government affairs in China.

I Work of the National Bureau of Corruption Prevention of China (NBCP)

During the long campaign of anti-corruption, Chinese government has gradually formed the strategic guideline of "Fighting corruption in a comprehensive way both from its symptoms and source, combining punishment and prevention with emphasis on the latter". In May 2008, China issued the *2008-2012 Working Plans of Building and Perfecting a System for the Punishment and Prevention of Corruption*, which clearly stated that while resolutely punishing corruption, we should pay more emphasis on root causes, on prevention, and on the establishment of relevant institutions. The Working Plans made an overall deployment of corruption prevention work, and pointed out that in order to prevent corruption, we should strengthen the

education of anti-corruption and upholding integrity, perfect the relevant laws, regulations and institutions in this regard, intensify the supervision and restraint on the exercise of power, deepen the reform of relevant systems, mechanisms and institutions, rectify the malpractice existing in relevant departments and walks. According to the Working Plans, after the 5 years' concrete work, the basic framework of the system for punishing and preventing corruption will be established; the long-lasting mechanism of integrity education will be primarily built in China; the relevant laws, regulations and institutions will be comparatively perfect; the oversight mechanism on the exercise of power will be fundamentally formed; the systematical innovation on tackling corruption from its source will be continually deepened; the work style of the Party and the government will be remarkably improved; the corrupt phenomenon will be more effectively controlled; and the satisfaction of the public on anti-corruption work will be further enhanced.

In order to implement the strategic guideline of anti-corruption and upholding integrity, and solidly promote the building of a system for the punishment and prevention of corruption, and better fulfill the *UN Convention against Corruption*, China has established the National Bureau of Corruption Prevention (NBCP). There are three main responsibilities of NBCP: responsible for the orchestration, overall planning, policy formulation and examination and supervision of nationwide corruption prevention work; coordinate and offer guidance to the corruption prevention work in enterprises, public institutions, social groups, intermediary agencies as well as other social organizations; responsible for international cooperation and international aid with regard to corruption prevention.

For more than one year since its establishment, NBCP has earnestly implemented the *2008-2012 Working Plans of Building and Perfecting a*

System for the Punishment and Prevention of Corruption, fully performed its functions, expanded the working domain to curb corruption from its source with emphasis on the proper use of power and prevention of illegal interests, reformed institutions with a spirit of innovation, and gradually built and perfected the systems and mechanisms to prevent corruption. NBCP has made new progress regarding effective prevention of corruption and created a good beginning.

The main work of NBCP is as follows:

1. Establishing the joint conference mechanism of corruption prevention work, in collaboration with other 13 authorities which bear the responsibilities of corruption prevention, such as the Supreme Procuratorate, Ministry of Finance, People's Bank, and State Audit, which has promoted the orchestration, overall planning, policy formulation as well as examination and supervision of the corruption prevention work;

2. Carrying out pilot work of corruption prevention in six provinces or municipalities such as Hebei and Shanghai, and earnestly exploring the effective way to prevent corruption;

3. Constantly promoting the publicity of government affairs, and safeguarding people's rights of awareness, participation, expression, and supervision;

4. Searching for the means of corruption prevention in social areas, and making efforts to build favorable social environment for the public officials to work in an honest and upright manner;

5. Researching to establish the information system, information sharing mechanism and early warning mechanism of corruption prevention, and enhancing the ability to precisely analyze and estimate the situation to prevent corruption;

6. Actively launching international cooperation and international aid

regarding corruption prevention.

II Work of the Publicity of Government Affairs in China

The publicity of government affairs is an important institution which has been constantly perfected along with the historical course of reform and development in China. In the late 1980s, the pilot work of publicity of government affairs were launched in some localities in China, and some primary administrative departments made the execution and results of government affairs to the public and actively accepted the supervision of the people. Later, based on the accumulation of experience in this regard, the institution of publicity of government affairs has been promoted nationwide., and the concept of the publicity of government affairs has stricken deep root in the hearts of the people, the relevant institutions have been increasingly prefect, the contents of this work have become more abundant. The further development of publicity of government affairs is of great significance to safeguard the people's democratic rights, close the tie between the government and the people, strengthen the supervision on administrative power, and advance the transformation of functions and innovation of management of the government. Chinese government has become more and more aware that the publicity of government affairs is one important pillar of the construction of socialist democratic politics, an important content of self-construction of the government, and a fundamental work of corruption prevention.

Ever since the establishment of NBCP, we have carried out the publicity of government affairs mainly from the following two aspects:

The first one, vigorously promoting the publicity of government affairs, safeguarding people's rights of awareness, participation, expression, and supervision, and creating conditions for the people to

supervise the government more effectively.

Promote the publicity of government affairs with the implementation of The Regulation on Disclosure of Government Information as the central work. The first is launching relevant training and dissemination. We put the learning of the Regulation into the training program for public servants, in order to raise their awareness to implement the publicity of government affairs in accordance with law; before and after the promulgation of the Regulation, relevant press have made exclusively coverage, making the public aware of their right of access to government information. The second is strengthening the building of the carrier of government information publicity. Up till now, the net-work of government information publicity has been basically established, consisting of government portal, government communiqué, press conference, hearing, bulletin, administrative service hall, the sites for searching government information, service hotline, electronic screen, touch-screen, public service card and so on, which have enabled the people an easy access to government information. The third is perfecting relevant regulations and institutions. Relevant institutions have been promulgated concerning some key points of the publicity of government information, such as the examination and approval of secrecy, assessment and evaluation, identification of responsibility, and coordination of issuance, which have ensured the overall implementation of the Regulation.

Promote the publicity of government affairs in some important events which have attracted broad public concerns. The first is making the information on the investment of major construction projects. In order to cope with the impact of international financial crisis, the Chinese government has expanded the scope of investment, and increased the investment of financial funds. In order to ensure the proper management and use of this part

of funds, we have improved the disclosure system on government- invested projects, actively made the information on the categories, amounts and use of project funds open to the public, accepted the supervision of the public and the media, and put the principle of transparency into the whole course of the construction of government- invested projects as well as the management and use of the funds. The second is making the information on the management and use of the funds and materials open to the public. Last year, after the disasters of severe snow disaster over some southern areas and Sichuan catastrophic earthquake, the CPC Central Committee decided to make the disaster relief work timely open to the public, both domestic and abroad. We formulated a series of institutions and regulations of the oversight on relief funds and materials in time, and sent inspection groups to make spot supervision. We regarded the transparency as an important content of the supervision and effectively ensured the safety of the funds and materials. The third is making the information on the preparation of Beijing Olympic Games public. During the course of preparation, Beijing government in collaboration with relevant departments, has established and perfected the institution of access to information, stuck to the sunshine operation on the use of funds, construction of stadiums, development of market and procurement of materials, actively accepted the social supervision, and has achieved the goal of “preparing the Olympic Games in an economic and transparent way”

Promote the publicity of government affairs concerning people’s substantial interest. The first is increasing the publicity on the issues such as investment on agriculture and public undertakings in rural area, disposal of collective assets and resources, compensation of land expropriation, agricultural allowance, disaster-relief funds, birth-control and self-governance of villagers, and effectively protecting the substantial interest of people in rural areas. The second is increasing the publicity on the work of

local branches of public enterprises and institutions, and further improving their service to provide more convenience to the people. Henan Province has implemented overall construction of service center at township level, 22139 villages have established service centers in total and the net-work of administrative service composed of province, city, county, town and village five levels have been formed.

The second one, taking the transparent exercise of administrative power as a crucial measure to deepen the publicity of government affairs, making efforts to promote the innovation on the administrative management system, advancing the transformation of government functions and striving to build sunshine government

In order to deepen the publicity of government affairs and innovate the way of administrative management, we have diligently carried out the work of making administrative power exercise in a transparent way, and promoted the dynamic publicity of the whole course of administrative power, including the source of power, the decision, the execution and the results. Now, I will take Nanjing City as an example to introduce this work in details.

Clean up administrative powers according to law, and make them open to public through the Internet.

Firstly, carry out an overall straightening-up of administrative law enforcement powers. Nanjing has made an overall cleaning up of administrative law enforcement affairs, and identified that in total there are 5878 administrative powers at the municipal level, By taking the measures of canceling, merging and others, the administrative law enforcement affairs were reduced to 3730 items, a decrease nearly by 40%. Secondly, compile and issue the “Nanjing City Administrative Powers Directory”, stipulating explicitly that the executive power that is not included in the administrative powers directory is not allowed to be exercised. Thirdly, bring the

“Administrative Powers Directory” to public on the websites. All the administrative power items in the city must be made known to public through the “Nanjing China” website, the Municipal Online Government Affairs Hall and the portal websites of each department. Any administrative powers that have not been open online are not allowed to be exercised.

Scientifically establish administrative power operation workflow and clarify posts and responsibilities.

Firstly, establish administrative power operation workflow and make clear the details of responsibilities to each individual person at their posts. Confirm the basis, content, process, time frame, responsibilities and rights of the power items one by one that have been sorted out, checked and ratified and distribute them scientifically to specific administrative law enforcement departments, law enforcement posts and law enforcement staff so as to put an end to wrangling. Secondly, in connection with rebuilding official business affairs workflow, carry out decentralization and restriction of powers and build the work mode that affair acceptance is separated from dealing with affairs. Carry out affair acceptance and feedback matters at the windows or on the public Internet. All affairs should be dealt with online through the internal Internet, the clients and the persons responsible for the affairs are mutually isolated. Thirdly, optimize operation procedures and promote administration efficiency. By simplifying procedures, reducing intermediate links, and cutting the administrative cost, the time-span for some administrative law enforcement affairs has even been reduced from 20 days to 1 day, improving the efficiency of work.

Boost online government administration project and build a sunshine platform for operation of government powers.

In line with the power operation workflow chart approved by the municipal government, all the government affairs will be brought onto the

Internet and exercised in a public and transparent way. First of all, build up uniform Municipal Online Administrative Affairs Service Platform. Secondly, all affairs should be concluded online from beginning to end and all the details and procedures for handling the affairs should be open to the public, and the information should be compiled into standard document, ensuring the whole process of handling the affairs is operated in the e-governance system. Thirdly, maintain the trace of the process of handling affairs. Every point, post, and the operating time and contents of every staff regarding the exercise of administrative powers is recorded by the computer. In this way, the whole process of power exercise can be traced and the abuse of power has been effectively controlled. Fourthly, use information technology to minimize the room for discretionary power. Clarify administrative penalties into 14 standard segments. Within the permission of the legal discretionary power and in accordance with the illegal facts and the seriousness of the case, the software of the system automatically decides on the extent of penalties. Such a practice effectively imposes restrictions on the operator's room for executing discretionary power.

Set up electronic supervision platforms that cover the whole course of the exercise of administrative powers.

After the online operation of administrative powers in Nanjing, the Municipal Supervision Bureau carries out comprehensive analysis, supervision and control on the online operation practices of the whole city's administrative power. The system has three core functions: the first function is to carry out synchronous long-distance supervision. The municipal online supervision and monitoring system forms seamless linkages with the municipal online government affairs hall, exercising synchronous online supervision and control over the operations of all the government affairs handling within all the organizations and departments of the whole city. The

second is the automatic alarm and error-correcting function, which automatically sends signals of “early warning,” “yellow card warning” and “red card warning” when abnormalities like going beyond time limit and going against the program appear, and as a consequence of this, the system will urge the rule-breaking subjects to rectify their malpractice and affix relevant responsibilities. The third is the scientific performance evaluation function. The system carries out quantizing assessment on administrative performances from the respects of administration openness, legitimacy in workflow and time limit, clean administration and service quality, and outcome of the assessment will be announced to the public through the media and Internet so as to accept supervision of the public.

Seen from the practical effects, Nanjing’s practice has achieved three breakthroughs: Firstly, the handling of administrative affairs are online operated, making all the administrative permission, administrative penalties and other affairs related to administrative powers are exercised online. Secondly, discretionary power is operated in a standard way. The system realized the automatic control on the operator’s room for executing discretionary power, and furthest reduced the jamming. Thirdly, the electronic supervision has covered all the areas of exercise of administrative powers. The system can conduct precise supervision and control of the whole city’s administrative power, leaving no blank areas.

In 2008, we held the National Experience Exchange Conference of Deepening Governmental Affairs Publicity, and concluded and disseminated the experiences of Nanjing in the field of promoting the transparent operation of administrative power. At present, in China’s Beijing, Shanghai, Hebei, Jiangsu, Fujian and some other localities, as well as Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Public Health, General Administration of Customs, State Administration for Industry and Commerce and some other central

government departments, combining with their practical situations, have explored effective ways to make the transparent operation of administrative power, and achieved new progress.

The above is an introduction to the corruption prevention work of China. If you are interested, welcome to visit our website: www.nbc.gov.cn, and your advices and suggestions on our work will be highly appreciated. In the future, we will continue to develop friendly relationship with anti-corruption authorities in different countries and relevant international organizations, and play an active role in the international exchanges and cooperation in the field of corruption prevention.

Thank you!