

Independent Commission Against Corruption

In the past year, we have been working on 37 pledges, of which :

- we have completed 25;
- we are on schedule on nine; and
- we are pressing ahead with three on-going commitments.

The following sets out the detailed report for each main programme area.

Corruption Prevention

<i>Year</i>	<i>Pledge</i>	<i>Present Position</i>
Action Completed		
1997	1. To further improve co-ordination between prevention and investigation in 1998-1999 so that we can give immediate attention to systems and procedures where corruption is known to exist.	We have adopted a procedure to follow up all investigation cases systematically so that prompt corruption prevention advice is given to government departments and other organisations whose procedures have revealed opportunities for corruption or malpractice. We have completed 11 such reviews since January 1998.
1997	2. To give priority to the examination of boundary control systems including the movement of people and cargo, in 1998-1999.	We have completed ten studies on cross-boundary control systems.

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| 1997 | 3. | To follow up more rigorously and systematically in 1998-1999 completed assignments in areas where corruption is likely to persist. | We now monitor the implementation of recommendations made in assignment studies every three months until they are fully implemented. We have also completed 15 follow-up studies in areas where corruption is likely to persist. |
| 1997 | 4. | To further promote corruption prevention awareness and understanding in the private sector in 1998-1999 by marketing our service more aggressively and drawing up easy-to-use “best practices” packages. | We have publicised our corruption prevention hot-line and our service to the private sector in four local newspapers, two trade journals and on television. Approaches to small and medium size businesses were made through the Community Relations Department. We have developed nine “best practices” packages covering work areas which are prone to corruption. |
| 1996 | 5. | To implement Phase II of the Business Ethics Campaign by assisting those companies which have formulated codes of conduct under Phase I to promulgate the codes to their staff. | We have completed Phase II of the Business Ethics Campaign. 70% of the companies we approached have formulated codes of conduct. We have also organised activities to promulgate the codes to their staff. |
| 1996 | 6. | To step up anti-corruption advice to public bodies in 1997-1998. | We completed 35 corruption prevention studies for public bodies during the period October 1997 to September 1998. |
| 1996 | 7. | To launch a campaign in 1997-1998 to enhance the standard of work ethics in the community by providing staff training for around 1 000 large companies. To organise activities in 1997-1998 to promote codes of conduct, ways to handle ethical dilemmas and knowledge of anti-corruption laws. | We have conducted talks on work ethics for staff of some 1 200 large companies. The campaign has been completed. |

- 1996 8. To conduct regular directorate-level meetings with each of the disciplined services in 1997-1998 to ensure that a high level of attention is paid to corruption prevention work and to reach an agreement on anti-corruption strategies.
- We held 11 meetings with the disciplined services in 1997-1998.
- 1996 9. To enhance the transparency of the ICAC and foster closer ties with the community in 1997-1998 through launching the second phase of the “Towards the Community Campaign”. To achieve this by :
- organising district projects such as carnivals and exhibitions in housing estates;
 - publishing an ICAC newspaper; and
 - setting up an ICAC Homepage on the Internet.
- We organised 12 ambassador projects carrying the “Towards the Community” theme. Another 53 joint projects with local organisations have also been completed.
- We published a monthly ICAC newspaper from January to September 1997. Following a review, we considered it more cost-effective to publish the newspaper on a quarterly basis from October 1997.
- We set up an ICAC Homepage in September 1996. It is reviewed and updated regularly.
- 1996 10. To promote positive values and attitudes among young people in 1997-1998 by boosting moral education in academic institutions. To achieve this by:

- joining forces with organisations such as schools, youth agencies and the Committee on the Promotion of Civic Education; and
- enlisting the support of parents and teachers in helping to develop positive values amongst young people.

We have conducted some 1 400 talks for 94 000 Form 5 students, tertiary students and final-year students of technical institutes.

We have produced six issues of civic education supplementary reading material for children attending kindergarten and their parents. We have also produced two volumes of the Civic Education Package for the use of secondary school teachers. Parts of the package also involve parents in developing positive values amongst youth.

1996 11. To assist the new Estate Agents Authority to formulate systems and procedures in 1997-1998 to minimise opportunities for corruption in the real estate industry.

We have provided corruption prevention advice to the Estate Agents Authority and produced a guide book for the real estate industry.

1996 12. To combat corruption in the run-up to 1997 and beyond so as to preserve Hong Kong's competitive edge; to maintain a corruption-free Special Administrative Region with a clean, honest public service and a fair market environment.

This remains the primary objective of the ICAC.

1995 13. To extend our Business Ethics Campaign from management to the working level (particularly young workers) in 1996-1997 to promote ethics among young people and to equip them with the ability to cope with ethical dilemmas in their place of work.

We have completed a Youth Ethics Participation Programme, consisting of 34 projects for 102 000 young people. Activities included exhibitions, competitions, seminars and training sessions.

1994	14. To assist in introducing business and professional ethics training into the curricula of tertiary institutions starting in the 1995 academic year.	We have produced and promoted five Ethics Resource Portfolios for university students.
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Good progress has been made with the following commitments in the past year. We will continue to work on them on an on-going basis.

<i>Year</i>	<i>Pledge</i>
1996	15. To continue to identify areas of work in government departments and public bodies which are prone to corruption and to recommend improvements to prevent corruption.
1996	16. The Hong Kong Ethics Development Centre to provide corruption prevention services to its clients through newsletters, training videos, courses and tailor-made packages, in co-operation with leading chambers of commerce and professional bodies.

Operations

<i>Year</i>	<i>Pledge</i>	<i>Present Position</i>
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Action Completed

1997	1. To provide 40 additional front-line investigators in 1998-1999 through internal re-deployment.	We have created these posts.
1997	2. To expand our undercover and informant handling programmes to uncover unreported corruption in 1998-1999.	We have issued guidelines on undercover work and informant handling and carried out more undercover operations.

1997 3. To establish in 1998-1999 a comprehensive witness protection programme and facilities to safeguard the security of witnesses and the integrity of prosecutions.

In April 1998, we established a Firearms and Witness Protection Section comprising officers trained in the use of firearms and close protection.

We have also promulgated comprehensive guidelines on a witness protection programme.

1997 4. To counter the globalisation of corruption-related crime by enhancing mutual assistance and liaison with overseas law enforcement agencies by setting up an International Assistance Section in 1998-1999.

We established an International Assistance Section comprising five officers in April 1998 to enhance liaison with overseas law enforcement agencies and to facilitate mutual legal assistance with other jurisdictions.

1997 5. To strengthen professional training in 1998-1999, particularly in the investigation of corruption-related computer crime and in the co-ordination of covert operations.

We organised three computer forensics training courses for ICAC officers in September 1998. Two Senior Investigators have received computer forensics training overseas and will pass on their knowledge to other officers. We also held a series of training sessions on covert operations.

1997 6. To strengthen our Legal Research Team in 1998-1999 so as to enhance our legal research capacity, particularly in Chinese laws and complex legal issues.

We have further strengthened the Legal Research Team with the addition of two Senior Investigators.

Preventive Education

<i>Year</i>	<i>Pledge</i>	<i>Present Position</i>
Action Completed		
1997	1. To enhance our co-operation with the Civil Service Bureau, government departments and staff organisations in 1998-1999 to maintain integrity in the Civil Service.	We conducted a joint seminar with the Hong Kong Chinese Civil Servants Association, and produced a video on “Managing Staff Integrity” for civil servants.
1997	2. Together with the Guangdong Provincial People’s Procuratorate, to produce a new legal guide for investors in Hong Kong and in Guangdong in 1998-1999.	The new legal guide was completed in July 1998.
Action in Progress : On Schedule		
1997	3. To launch a multi-media programme in 1998-1999 to publicise the evils of corruption.	A new ICAC drama series “ICAC Investigators 1998” will be launched in November. A radio drama series for young people will be broadcast in February 1999.
1997	4. To review our strategy for cultivating positive values amongst young people in 1998-1999.	We have reviewed our strategy and will henceforth work more closely with schools, youth organisations, the media and government departments in promoting positive values among young people.

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| 1997 | 5. | To approach in 1998-1999 those business organisations newly established in Hong Kong to enhance their understanding of the anti-corruption laws and the objectives of the ICAC. | Publicity material on ICAC services has been included in the Industry Department's Business Licence Information Centre and the Hong Kong Trade Development Council Business Library. Ten major foreign chambers of commerce have agreed to publicise ICAC services to their 7 000 members. In addition, 120 talks have been conducted for 3 400 staff members recently posted to some 120 major People's Republic of China-funded companies. |
| 1997 | 6. | To step up in 1998-1999 preventive education for recent immigrants from the Mainland through face to face contact and suitable publicity material. | We have incorporated ICAC sessions into new arrival programmes organised by government departments and non-governmental organisations. We have produced a radio programme for new arrivals. |
| 1997 | 7. | To promote corruption prevention awareness in the financial sector in 1998-1999 with the support of professional associations and regulatory bodies. | We have conducted three seminars for 330 internal auditors and security officers from 140 banks. We have also taken part in the organisation of a conference for the securities, futures and investments sectors. |
| 1997 | 8. | To encourage in 1998-1999, through visits and seminars, small and medium size businesses to make use of our corruption prevention advisory service. | We have contacted 1 100 small and medium size businesses to promote our corruption prevention advisory service. We have also conducted seven seminars with the Hong Kong Productivity Council, the Hong Kong Trade Development Council and the Hong Kong Vocational Training Council, reaching more than 250 small and medium size entrepreneurs. |

Enlisting Support

<i>Year</i>	<i>Pledge</i>	<i>Present Position</i>
Action Completed		
1997	1. To increase in 1998-1999 the number of advertising packages for enlisting public support for the fight against corruption.	We launched three advertising packages and a poster campaign.
1997	2. Together with the Civil Service Bureau, to secure in 1998-1999 more active involvement of heads of government departments in corruption prevention; in particular, to organise a service-wide seminar.	We co-organised a seminar with the Civil Service Bureau which was attended by over 300 senior civil servants from 13 bureaux and 71 departments.
1996	3. To continue our territory-wide campaign to foster closer ties with the community. As part of this campaign :	
	– to organise a series of presentations at the regional and district level on the work of the ICAC; and	We organised 32 local presentations between October 1997 and January 1998.
	– to produce a television drama series to publicise our work.	A new drama series was produced in September 1998.

Action in Progress : On Schedule

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| 1997 | 4. | To work more closely with the news media in 1998-1999 to enhance public understanding of our objectives and work methods; in particular, to produce articles for local dailies and short programmes for television and radio on the work of the ICAC. | We published a series of feature articles in the Hong Kong Economic Journal and Wen Wei Po. We telecast a mini-series on the work of the ICAC on both the Chinese and English channels of a local television station. A radio programme for new arrivals was also broadcast. |
| 1997 | 5. | To further enhance our presence in the community by stepping up liaison with district organisations in 1998-1999; in particular, to organise programmes jointly with District Boards. | Preparation work is underway for joint projects with the 18 District Boards and other district organisations. We have also organised 36 Meet-the-Public Sessions. |
| 1997 | 6. | To encourage selected business organisations, public bodies and youth groups to play a more active role in preventing corruption in 1998-1999. | Over 70 organisations have joined a programme to publicise ICAC messages through various activities, most of which will be launched in the first quarter of 1999. |

Good progress has been made with the following commitment in the past year. We will continue to work on it on an on-going basis.

Year

Pledge

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| 1995 | 7. | To provide the public with information to enhance our accountability and transparency while preserving the necessary confidentiality of investigations. |
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