

Hong Kong – Freest economy with clean business environment

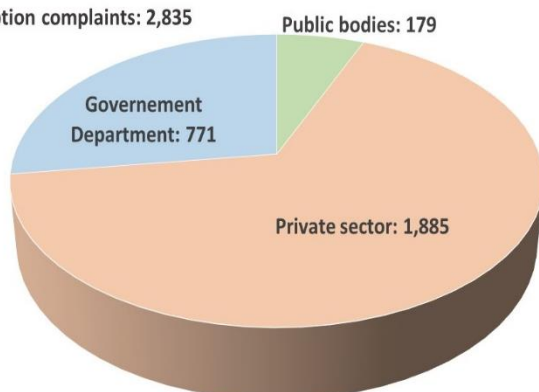
The Independent Commission Against Corruption (ICAC) has since its inception in 1974 embraced a holistic approach of combining law enforcement, education and prevention to combat corruption. With persistent efforts of the ICAC and the enduring support from the business community in cultivating business ethics and curbing corruption over the years, Hong Kong is widely recognised as one of the cleanest places to do business today.

A level playing field and probity culture

Corruption in both the public and private sectors in Hong Kong has been kept effectively in check. In 2017, there were around 1,900 corruption complaints related to the private sector and around 900 related to the public sector, similar to the trends in recent years. The 2017 ICAC Annual Survey reveals a very low level of tolerance to corruption in the community (a mean score of 0.6 on a scale of 0 to 10, with 0 representing total rejection and 10 representing total acceptance) while nearly all (over 99%) respondents considered that keeping Hong Kong corruption-free was of paramount importance to the overall development of the city. The unanimous consensus is that a clean society in Hong Kong will attract investments and is conducive to sustainable development.

Corruption Complaints in 2017 (Election-related complaints excluded)

Total corruption complaints: 2,835

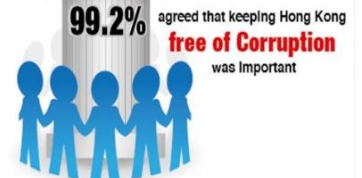


Highlights of ICAC Annual Survey 2017

Mean score of tolerance of corruption:



Probity



Global recognition

The international community regards very highly of Hong Kong's efforts in combating corruption. Such recognition is showcased in its high position in various notable international surveys:

- The **2017 Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI)** released by Transparency International ranks Hong Kong the **13th least corrupt place** among 180 countries and territories globally, and the **second cleanest in Asia**.
- In the **2017 TRACE Bribery Risk Matrix** published by TRACE International, Hong Kong is ranked the **15th least corrupt** among 200 economies around the world.
- The **Rule of Law Index 2017-18** released by the World Justice Project ranks Hong Kong the **10th in terms of "absence of corruption"** among 113 countries and jurisdictions.
- Hong Kong was hailed as the **freest economy** in the world for the 24th consecutive year by the Heritage Foundation's **Index of Economic Freedom 2018**. Its report highly appraises Hong Kong's anti-corruption work for its little tolerance for corruption, and a high degree of transparency that enhances government integrity.



TRACE Bribery Risk Matrix 2017

Ranking	Country/Place
1	Sweden
2	New Zealand
12	Canada
15	Hong Kong
26	Japan

The table is presented on a white background with a blue header. The row for Hong Kong is circled in red.



Sharing anti-corruption experience in the Belt & Road region

With the roll out of the Belt & Road initiative, companies are presented with tremendous business opportunities to expand their business across borders. However, they must also be prepared for challenges in operating and managing their business under different systems and cultures. The ICAC has recently set up a dedicated unit to help anti-corruption agencies of ASEAN countries in particular along the Belt & Road region to strengthen capacity to fight graft through providing tailor-made training and consultancy services within the framework of The United Nations Convention against Corruption. Following mutual discussions, the ICAC is now mapping out capacity building training plans for a number of countries including Sri Lanka, Timor-Leste, Bangladesh, Kazakhstan and Myanmar. The ICAC Commissioner has also visited the anti-corruption agencies of Myanmar, Malaysia, Vietnam, Thailand and Cambodia in recent months to foster closer ties in the fight against corruption. It is believed that this new move will generate positive impact in building a clean business environment in the Belt & Road region for the benefit of all stakeholders, including Hong Kong companies.



HKBEDC – Free corruption prevention support

With the support of the business community, the Hong Kong Business Ethics Development Centre (HKBEDC) under the Community Relations Department of the ICAC has made strenuous efforts in promoting business ethics and fostering a level-playing field for business since its establishment in 1995. Steered by 10 major chambers of commerce in Hong Kong¹, the HKBEDC offers a full range of free ethics training and consultancy services to help companies build an ethical corporate culture

¹ The work of the Hong Kong Business Ethics Development Centre is guided by the Hong Kong Business Ethics Development Advisory Committee, comprising representatives nominated by the ICAC and ten major chambers of commerce in Hong Kong. They are Federation of Hong Kong Industries, The American Chamber of Commerce in Hong Kong, The Chinese General Chamber of Commerce, The Chinese Manufacturers' Association of Hong Kong, The Hong Kong Chinese Enterprises Association, The Hong Kong General Chamber of Commerce, The British Chamber of Commerce in Hong Kong, The European Chamber of Commerce in Hong Kong, The Hong Kong Japanese Chamber of Commerce & Industry, The Indian Chamber of Commerce Hong Kong.

which prevents corruption and fraud. It also produces a wide range of industry-specific resources and training materials for use and reference by business executives and professionals. Companies are welcome to visit the website of the HKBEDC (www.hkbedc.icac.hk) or call on its hotline (2587 9812) for more information.



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