Anti-corruption System and Efforts

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Anti-corruption efforts in U.S., Asia countries are noted for their strict punishment and legal enforcement against corruption. They already have appropriate laws and apply them. Currently Korea has the Law on the Public Servants, the Public Servants in Provinces, and the Public Servants' Ethics. But they are not effectively. In this paper, strong laws and systems of anti-corruption in USA, Hong Kong and Singapore are examined

1. HONG KONG

In 1948, Hong Kong set the Law on the Prevention of Corruption Ordinance, which strictly punishes the congressmen, businessmen, and the government officials who commit corruption. Imprisonment up to five years and the fine up to $10,000 were
possible. There was a special body called Anti-Corruption Branch established under the Police Department, but it was too inefficient. So they formed the Standing Committee on Corruption in 1957 and came to include the executive and the legislative personnel in 1960. In 1971, the law on the Prevention of Bribery Ordinance was Set up, which said that if a public servant possesses or maintains inappropriate wealth, it falls into a crime of corruption. If he or she hides his or her belongings, it is a crime too. A delegation from the United Kingdom, Marry Maclehose, in order to eradicate corruption, provided for the Basic Law on Independent Commission Against Corruption Ordinance in February of 1974, which gave birth to Independent Commission Against Corruption (ICAC). At first it was criticized because it is not in harmony with Chinese customs and tradition. Today, Hong Kong is known worldwide for having a clean civil service and providing a level playing field in business. Hong Kong's success in substantially reducing corruption has been hard earned by a close partnership between the community and the ICAC. ICAC has the powers of investigation, arrest, detention and granting bail, which are fundamental to any law enforcement agency. It contributes to keeping Hong Kong fair, just, stable and prosperous also by educating the public against the evils of corruption and television and radio commercials as well as print advertisements to publicize the work of the ICAC.

In Hong Kong, the provisions governing of public officials are not found in the law creating the special corruption law enforcement agency, but in a separate Prevention of Bribery Act. The main focus of Act is on acts of bribery involving public officials. The Act makes it an offense for any person, whether in Hong Kong or elsewhere and without lawful authority or reasonable excuse, to offer any advantage solicit or accept such an advantage if the purpose thereof is to induce or any reward any act or omission on the part of the public servant, or to favor any person or put him at a disadvantage.