China’s Successful Practices on its Public and Transparent Anti-Corruption Campaign

Ever since the 18th National Congress of the Communist Party of China, China has actively performed its obligations under the United Nations Convention against Corruption. Adhering to the principle of public and transparent anti-corruption, China has broadened channels for information disclosure, adopted an open-door policy by encouraging public participation and supervision in accordance with the law, thereby achieving positive public feedback.

1. Improve information disclosure platforms and fully leverage all channels of information release

Convey the voice of the leadership and dispel public doubts.

The leadership of Central Commission of Disciplinary Inspection (“CCDI”) of the Party gives annual press conferences to report to the public the progress of Party discipline and clean governance as well as the ongoing anti-corruption endeavor. This year the press conference featured 5 ministerial level officials, including Wu Yuliang, Deputy Secretary of the Central Disciplinary Commission for Discipline Inspection, and Xiao Pei, Vice Minister of Supervision, who gave official interpretation of the core message of the sixth Plenary Session of the 18th Central Commission for Discipline Inspection, and answered 22 questions from 15 media organizations, including both domestic and international press. 80 journalists from 48 news media organizations attended the press conference, which got national attention with real-time image and transcript-based coverage on www.china.com.cn and www.ccdi.gov.cn. Meanwhile, the information platform of the
“Two Annual Congresses” has also been utilized to answer questions from the media and respond to concerns of the public. Each year, Huang Shuxian, Deputy Secretary of the Central Commission for Discipline Inspection and Minister of Supervision accepts interview on the “ministers’ corridor” program on anti-corruption issues.

Media briefing conferences are held quarterly to update the news media. Ever since the 18th National Congress of the Communist Party of China, the Central Commission for Discipline Inspection organizes quarterly media briefing sessions, in which the Central Communication Department, the Office of Cyberspace Administration, major central news media and reporters from major central websites are invited, in an effort to communicate the priorities of party discipline and clean governance development and anti-corruption campaign. Meanwhile, CCDI also provides actively facilitates media coverage of the campaign by providing the press with news leads, materials, exclusive interviews etc.

Development of online information platform. The official website of the Central Commission for Discipline Inspection came online in September 2013. In January 2015, a mobile application was launched, and in January 2016, an official account on Wechat was opened. Such developments provide good information environment which facilitates the public and transparent supervision of anti-corruption campaign. So far the accumulated visits to the official website of the Central Commission for Discipline Inspection have exceeded 2.2 billion, with daily average over 3 million. The official website has thus been rated the “most powerful website on the Party and political affairs of China” for three successive years. The mobile application has 3.08 million installations, with over 35 million visits. The official Wechat account has 1.03 million followers and altogether 8.26 hits. All the above figures beats those of other websites and news media on Party and political affairs, making the CCDI information platforms the major channel for public access to information on party discipline and clean governance development and anti-corruption campaign.
2. Prompt release of official information and transparency of working procedures

Information on discipline enforcement and inspections are released in real time. Ever since the launch of the official website of the Central Commission for Discipline Inspection, we have released the information on disciplinary misconducts by 121 centrally-managed officials, and those by 1169 director-general level officials, which has created an atmosphere of severe punishment of corruption. The typical issues of the violation of the Eight-point Code are released periodically, and the monthly data reports have been published for 28 successive months. 6152 cases of violation of the Eight-point Code spotted by the Central Discipline Inspection authorities are communicated, with 8899 officials exposed. So have been 1613 cases on the harmful practices that hurt the people’s interests and corruption. Over 1500 updates have been published on the initiation of and response to the Central Inspection Tour and the international anti-corruption fugitive repatriation and asset recovery work.

The organizational structure, main functions, working procedures of discipline inspection authorities at all levels, budgets and settlement reports of the Ministry of Supervision, and information communication efforts of the ministry are released for supervision by the public. The official website of the Central Commission for Discipline Inspection has a column named Deeping the Institutional Reform of the Central Discipline Inspection Authorities, where the adjustment of internal bodies and the competence of each agency are timely updated. Featured reports such as the get to know the Central Commission for Discipline Inspection and the Ministry of Supervision, Get to know the Provincial, Regional and Municipal Discipline Inspection Commissions and Supervision Departments (Bureaus), Get to know the newly established and dispatched central discipline inspection groups” are provided. Members of the leadership team of the Discipline Inspection Commissions and Supervision Departments (Bureaus) of the 31 Provinces, Autonomous Regions and Direct Administered Municipalities and the Xinjiang Production and Construction Corps are published along with their names, photos and résumés; so are the organizational structure and main functions of these
agencies. The official website of the Central Commission for Discipline Inspection provides detailed introduction on the working procedure on letters and visits/petitions, whistle-blowing, special-task inspection tour, disciplinary inspections, among others. The Newspaper of *China Discipline Inspection and Supervision* publishes special editions for the Roadmap for Letters and Visit (petition) of the Discipline Inspection Authorities and Roadmap for Disciplinary Inspection Tours, which contain specific guidance on the procedure, requirements and samples for letters and visits, as well as features and procedures of special-task inspection tours, thus giving the upmost respect for the public’s right to information and right to participation.

In September 2014, an open day activity named “get to know the Central Commission for Discipline Inspection” was held through which 50 established scholars from 28 countries and 7 Chinese ones were invited to a study visit. Officials in charge of relevant departments of the CCDI gave introductions and answered questions from the scholars.

3. Actively respond to public concerns and carefully adopt suggestions and inputs so as to enhance public participation

The policies and strategic deployment of the CPC Central Committee and the Central Commission for Discipline Inspection on party discipline and clean governance development and fight against corruption are accorded in-depth and thorough expounding and interpretations. Since September 2013, 16 officials that hold leading positions in the Central Commission for Discipline Inspection and 28 Provincial, Regional and Municipal party secretaries and secretaries of the discipline inspection commissions, party secretaries and leaders of the discipline inspection groups of central and state departments have been invited for online interviews on the official website of CCDI, to present a clear picture of the central policies on anti-corruption and measures of implementation thereof. The work report of Plenary Sessions and recent amendments and enactment of Laws and Regulations, as well as information on priorities such as the reform of dispatched resident inspection offices are timely published. The relevant officials in charge are invited to address media’s questions of public concerns, and signed articles, exclusive interviews
and feature reports are published to facilitate the public’s access to in-depth information. A healthy atmosphere that encourages public participation and supervision is being created where anti-corruption takes deeper roots in the heart of each and every one. With enhanced communication, the public further understands the harmful social effects of corruptive acts, and the determination, will and measures of the Party and the Government to fight corruption. The public confidence in anti-corruption endeavor is thereby raised, so are the willingness and enthusiasm towards participation in the anti-corruption campaign. The official website of the Central Commission for Discipline Inspection establishes databases for the Party’s disciplines, laws and regulations so as to promote knowledge of the policies and procedures of supervision and report, facilitate education on the public’s awareness of rights and laws, enhance the public’s capacity to participate in the anti-corruption work, and to engage the public in the fight against the various corruptive activities.

We also have actively responded to public concerns so as to tap into the public’s motivation to participate in the anti-corruption efforts. The Central Commission for Discipline Inspection and discipline inspection authorities at the various levels conduct random polls of public opinion, so that comments and opinions of the party members, leaders and officials, and the people on party discipline and clean governance development and anti-corruption work could be gathered. Such knowledge of the expectations and voices of the people could be used as reference in the decision making process. A special column is opened on the official website of the Central Commission for Discipline Inspection for suggestions and opinions of the netizens so that the CCDI’s work could be further improved. The column named “E topic each month” has devised 31 topics, such as “raise the invisibility cloak for the four forms of decadence” and “expose the secret enjoyment and luxuries in training centers”. Each has triggered discussions and exchanges among over hundreds of thousands of netizens. The column named “selected replies” openly posts 123 answers to netizens’ inquiries, over 3000 replies to comments, and replies to 36 thousand emails.

4. Smooth channels for report filing, an improved supervision system so as to release the positive energy of supervision by the people.
We have given priority to resolution of issues most reported and concerned by the people, and the tackling of corruption that occurs in daily life. The news media and social public are encouraged to engage in supervision of misconducts and corruption. An omnipresent supervision network is hence established.

Supervision by public opinion is used as a “sword”. The news media is encouraged and guided to conduct supervision of misconducts and corruption through ordinary channels and lawful means. The working mechanism for supervision by public opinion is improved to become the foundation of cooperation between the discipline inspection authorities and the news media, the communication between public supervision and media supervision, and parallel promotion of media investigation and disciplinary investigation. A column named “watch station of the four forms of decadence” is opened in major news media, where typical cases are published as a powerful means of deterrence.

Channels for supervision are continuously broadened with improvement of the mechanism of reporting by letter and visit, by phone calls and by internet. The official website of Central Commission for Discipline Inspection shows, at a prominent position on the page, the phone number, email address and website for filing a report. Also, at key dates such as the New Year, the Chinese New Year, the Labor Day, the Dragon Boat Festival, the Mid-autumn Festival and the National Day, a special zone for report of the four forms of decadence are opened for public supervision and honest report. In June 2015, the official website of the Central Commission for Discipline Inspection started to provide a shortcut in the mobile application named “fight against the four forms of decadence in one click”, which enables easier report of the four forms of decadence by the public and praised by all walks of society as “an excellent move with both feet on the ground” by the CCDI.

The new media and new technologies are employed for the convenience of the public in filing reports. Discipline inspection authorities at various levels have established websites, as well as report windows such as “one click report” and
“readily to take a picture” so that the public could easily provide leads with texts, pictures or video clips, among other means. Some provinces, regions or municipals have developed special apps for appointed supervisors so that they could discover and upload violation no matter where and when. The discipline inspection authorities could thereby launch investigation as necessary. Statistics show that reports through internet make up 50% of all reports, while those through Wechat accounts for about one third.

It is a proven fact that public participation is vital to the anti-corruption and rectification campaign, with report letters, media coverage and online public opinions as key sources of information and case leads. Public participation and supervision, as of becoming normalized, regulated and institutionalized, are playing an increasingly significant role in party discipline and clean governance development and the war against corruption.