Anti-Corruption Agencies (ACAs) have often been unsuccessful in investigating and prosecuting those in powerful positions. When ACAs are faced with such cases, they are likely to fail. Often officials and heads of ACAs suffer the brunt of political intimidation including physical threats. In a number of cases over the years, ACA officials and heads have been harassed, removed, dismissed, or imprisoned. Several ACA heads also resigned or retired, sometimes leaving the ACA in a state of decay and paralysis.

In 2019, Malaysia took the initiative to set up the International Champion Fund under the auspices of the International Association of Anti-Corruption Authorities (IAACA). The Fund aims to support ACA officers who were “victimized” for carrying out their roles in the fight against corruption. This event will explain more about the Fund’s operations, including its financial assistance to heads and officials of ACAs.

Moreover, the event will present and discuss the forthcoming UNODC publication “Colombo Commentary on the Jakarta Principles for Anti-Corruption Agencies” (Colombo Commentary). The Colombo Commentary provides technical guidance to assist UNCAC States parties in the implementation of their international obligations under articles 6 and 36 of UNCAC by ensuring the necessary independence is guaranteed for ACAs.