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 to 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 a 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.
China’s Practices for Clean and Thrifty Organization of Sport Events

China successfully staged the 29th Olympic Games in August 2008, which were, as Jacques Rogge, the then president of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) put it, “truly exceptional Games”. Chinese delegation won 51 gold medals, 21 silver ones and 28 bronze ones, occupying the first place on the gold medallist and second place for the total number of medals. At the 128th IOC Session in July 2015, Beijing was elected as the host city of the 2022 Winter Olympic Games, thereby becoming the first city to hold both the Summer and the Winter Olympic Games. In recent years, China holds nearly 3000 national single-event sport competitions and comprehensive major sports events each year. The events are many in number, and often organized on a tight schedule and with heavy responsibilities. China’s competent authority on sport events has, on the basis of legal, just, efficient and clean principles, strived to take effective measures to improve the accountability regime, strengthen supervision and inspection, and reinforce precaution and punishment against sport corruption. Such measures have achieved remarkable success, which have accumulated positive experiences and developed good practices.

First, we have reinforced accountability mechanism with the establishment of supervising agencies.

For the organization of sports games, disciplinary inspection committees (hereinafter referred to as DIC) are established simultaneously along with organizational committees. The organizational committees as part of the administration authority for the organization of a sports event, is responsible for the organizational work as well as prevention of corruption. The organization committees shall diligently perform its duties in terms of the leadership of the organization, supervision, correction, support and selection and appointment of personnel. It establishes subordinate divisions such as the competition department and competition committee of each individual sport (hereinafter referred to as CC) for purposes of organization, supervision and inspection, and handling of business, etc. The DIC also establishes a general office and the inspection and audit
department for assumption of specific aspects of supervision. The subordinate divisions, which perform six functions for the proper operation of sport events: supervision, correction, deterrence, precaution, coordination and settlement, are required to timely publish their responsibilities and functions, formulate work plans, adopt mechanisms for events supervision, issue handling as well as communication and coordination. They also announce supervision hotlines, emails, contacts and office addresses as means for social supervision. They shall accept reports carefully, and conduct examinations in accordance with prescribed rules, and make sure that “each report is processed and every inquiry is replied”.

Second, guarantee the use of earmarked funds for the designated purpose to protect fund safety.

One of the primary responsibilities of the competent sports administration authority is proper management and use of earmarked funds and to prevent embezzlement and corruption. Therefore, the competent authority on sport events practices the separation between revenue and expenditure, strengthens budgeting and implementation management, and clarifies protocols on the scope, standard, conditions and procedures on the use of earmarked funds for sports. Key areas for management and supervision for this purpose are funds for the training of the national teams, specialized equipment for the national teams, repair and upgrading of sport sites and equipment, and apparatus and equipment for scientific research. Specialized supervision teams are established to conduct careful inspection on the use of earmarked funds, and will order rectification within a prescribed period of time for the timely correction of any irregularities in the use of such funds. External audit agencies are retained publicly to audit earmarked funds and timely detect and correct wrongdoings existing in the management and use of such funds. Communication and cooperation between the supervising authorities and finance management authorities are also strengthened, so that new situations and new issues in the use of such funds could be spotted and researched in time. Hence, the internal supervision mechanism is continuously improved and efforts from different departments are joined to promote the appropriate, safe and effective use of
earmarked funds for sports.

Third, regulate sports events operation by strengthening supervision and inspection.

Selection of athletes is the crucial link in sport events, a manifestation of the sport spirits, sport ethics, and the fundamental requirement of fair competition, as well as a spotlight of the sport sector, news media and the public. To strengthen supervision and inspection for athlete selection, ensure the compliance of the selection mechanism and platform with the “open, equal, competitive and selective” principles, the supervising authorities, in cooperation with the event administration authorities, strive to promote improvement of the rules for selection, establish selection supervision working groups, listen to selection reports, strictly implement the selection procedures and regulate the selection activities, so that fraudulent operations, backroom deals and other misconducts are forestalled at the institutional level. The DIC conducts strict examinations on the qualification and conditions of candidates for the “sport ethical award” to the extent that confirmed false statement or other corruptive activity would definitely lead to disqualification. The DIC and other supervising authorities play the role of “supervisor” as well as the “coordinator”, which lay their emphasis on monitoring of compliance with the disciplinary rules and the precautionary education and in-process prevention measures, conduct assessment and communication on the symptoms and suggestive indications, and strengthen analysis and responsive actions. Meanwhile, the DIC enhanced supervision on the competition committees and participating teams as to the performance of their responsibilities by sending members to sit pre-competition meetings, reinforcing education and management of the participating teams and referees on voluntary maintenance of the competition order, and strengthening the supervision on events that involve scoring, points calculation, adversary system and whistling.
Fourth, adhere to the principle of “three strictness” for honest participation in the games

Use of doping is a manifestation of sports misconduct. That is why the sports administration authority has always regarded it as an issue that affects the overall proper development of the sports sector. It has adhered to the policy of “the three strictness”, i.e., strict ban, strict examination and strict punishment, and conducted comprehensive supervision of doping in cooperation with other relevant authorities. It has first implemented a strict accountability regime by dividing the anti-doping responsibility to different layers, assumed by designated individuals, so that a comprehensive supervision network is established with no oversights. Secondly, it has adopted the anti-doping qualification access system, where an athlete may not participate in a game without receiving anti-doping education, sitting the anti-doping knowledge test, and passing the test thereof. Thirdly, it has done more frequent examination. Recently China conducts over ten thousand anti-doping tests each year, especially for athletes in games that depend on the physical stamina. Fourthly, it has increased the severity of punishment. Adopting a “no tolerance” policy, athletes who are tested with positive results are punished under the Anti-Doping Regulation. The continued investment of efforts into the anti-doping work guarantees the clean participation in sport as well as integrity of medals won. The success of China’s anti-doping policy has won consistent acclaims from the international community.

Fifth, strict compliance with the regulations and severe punishment of violations

The DIC carefully handles letters/visits and reports, by designating specific officials in charge of the logging, briefing and reporting of the letters. This aims to safeguard the solemnness and authority of the system by regulated procedures, high requirements, and strict accountability. The reports and leads so received will be processed with group discussions, through which an investigation and verification plan will be formulated. The plan will be carried out in compliance with the relevant regulations so that the facts could be investigated and ascertained. Where wrongdoing is discovered, it will be seriously dealt with in accordance with the law.
and regulations. The system is under frequent review for improvement. The public’s right to know, right to participate and right to supervise are protected, so that requests that comply with laws and regulations will receive proper explanation response and expeditiously handled by the relevant authorities. The issues so spotted are analyzed so that the deeper reasons could be discovered so as to nip the problem in the bud and propose preemptive steps. Follow-up supervision is conducted with specific focuses so that precautionary measures could be adopted, the relevant work could be improved so as to reconcile conflicts and resolve problems. The wrongdoings identified shall be disclosed promptly. And the participating delegations in the games are also reminded to take lessons from those incidents, to reinforce education and regulation of their team members, to respect the referee, the opponent and the audience, to comply with the game discipline and to prevent similar problems from happening.

Sixth, reinforce education and guidance and increase awareness of compliance.

Guided by the scientific theory of integrity and clean governance, we shall use the abundant literature and art on clean governance as the carrier, with sports as the theme, to organize a variety of lively publicity campaigns by actively inheriting and promoting the traditional culture, and vigorously carrying forward the Chinese spirit of sports. As a result, a healthy sport ethic and a purified sport cultural environment could be natured. We also need to firmly uphold rightful values of sport, shoulder the historical mission of developing sports in this new era, and vigorously carry out the principle of sports for the people, benefit the people and close to the people. We shall put emphasis on the education of the disciplinary rules, and closely integrate them with the day-to-day training. Athletes, coaches and referees shall be given targeted education, where they learn the laws and regulations and the rules, reinforce the ideology and morality to prevent irregularities. We should improve the means of clean education, enrich it and enhance its relevancy and effectiveness, with special focus on giving clean sports education on the field, and into the sports entities and into sports teams, with a view to expanding the coverage and influence of the education and fully leveraging the paragon effect of sports stars.
Cases of irregularities can be used to warn the people familiar with the facts. We need to use the publicity means that people enjoy and the new media to maximize the alerting and preventing effect, so as to create a clean environment for sports development. Thrifty should be practiced and extravagance should be eliminated so as to actively urge participants to sports events to build and practice the philosophy of sport events organization. We should streamline the sports events opening and closing ceremonies, simplify the torch-passing ceremony and route, adjust and compress the number and scale of games and cancel arrangements irrelevant to the sports activities so as to restore the sports nature of such events. Game-time disciplines and protocols should be formulated to prohibit celebration by way of extravagant entertaining, and use of public fund for gift purchasing and giving. We should also effectively enforce strict discipline to put a brake on hedonism and extravagance.

This is a great era for sport events. With the support of the International Olympic Committee and other friendly countries, China will leverage the preparations for the Beijing Winter Olympic Games and Winter Paralympic Games to actively promote the comprehensive, coordinated and sustainable development of sports undertakings, to make new and greater contributions to achieving the sports dream, and to comprehensively build a well-off society, thus making greater contribution to a more healthy China.