

Korea's anti-corruption agency launched a smartphone app for reporting corruption and public interest violation

The Anti-Corruption and Civil Rights Commission (ACRC), Korea's national anti-corruption agency, receives reports of corruption from the public through its website (www.acrc.go.kr) and mobile application as well as by personal visit, post, and fax.

In December 2013, the ACRC launched the “Report Corruption & Public Interest Violation” app, through which the public can report corruption and violation of the public interest.

This new smartphone application allows citizens to report an act of corruption, violation of the Code of Conduct for Public Officials, and infringement of the public interest, such as manufacturing or distribution of adulterated food and environmental pollution.

Using the app, one can photograph or record the scene of misconduct by phone and send the photo or video file directly to the ACRC. In the case of public interest violation, one can register the location of the act of violation, which serves to increase the accuracy of investigation conducted by the ACRC or the investigative agency concerned.

The app user can also consult an ACRC investigator before filing a report. The contents of the consultation or report can be viewed only by the user with a password.

The new app can be downloaded for free and installed on Android smartphones as well as iPhones.

The ACRC provides a financial reward of up to 3 billion won (about USD 2.5 million) for those who report an act of corruption when the whistleblowing has directly resulted in recovering or increasing the revenues, or reducing the cost of a public organization. For public interest whistleblowers, the maximum reward is 2 billion won (about USD 1.7 million).

