FOREWORD

In 2015, the CCAC fulfilled its responsibilities to fight against corruption in the public and private sectors and proactively perform ombudsman functions according to Law no. 10/2000 – Organic Law of the Commission Against Corruption.

In the past year, the CCAC, in accordance with the *Organic Law*, made a scientific, reasonable and moderate adjustment in its internal personnel administration and workflow, particularly in strengthening the discipline management and internal supervision of the CCAC's personnel, requiring that they are always impartial, self-disciplined, professional and highly efficient in their disciplines and professionalism.

In the area of anti-corruption, the CCAC strictly adheres to the principle that "all are equal before the law" and investigates into the crimes committed by the public and private sectors within the jurisdiction of the CCAC according to law. Of all the criminal cases detected by the CCAC last year, those involving collusion between civil servants and businessmen, as well as corruption conspiracy in the construction, procurement and outsource of services in public departments were more serious and required attention from the SAR Government and all public departments. Not only should the discipline of civil servants be strengthened, but the legislation should also be improved in order to plug the loopholes prone to corruption.

In the area of ombudsman, the CCAC handles each complaint seriously and promptly and supervise, according to law, the legality in the exercise of public powers by the government departments and the fairness and efficiency of public administration. When handling ombudsman cases and conducting targeted investigation, the CCAC found that "obsolete laws" were used as excuses for some public departments which deviated from the principles of legality in administrative procedures and administrative acts. The persons-in-charge of the departments should promptly find out outdated legislation and actively put forward suggestions and proposals to amend the law in order to ensure "legal administration". In the investigation of ombudsman cases, the CCAC found that it is worthwhile for leaders and chiefs of public departments to make careful study of and practice how to, when adhering to the principle of "legal administration" and without contravening the law, exercise the "discretion" vested by law to improve the longestablished administrative procedures and service models and provide citizens with better and more convenient public services.

The CCAC has always been employing the two-pronged approach highlighting both combating and prevention – along with investigating and handling corruption cases, it proactively carries out promotion and education work to prevent corruption. It has also continuously carried out promotion work at schools and the community and has actively organised talks and promotion activities on the law *Prevention and Suppression of Bribery in the Private Sector* for the local enterprises. In addition, the CCAC believes that the promotion and education work of anti-corruption of public departments should, instead of just holding integrity seminars, integrate the departments' own work and administrative procedures, in order to make the work more targeted and practical.

In the area of combating criminal crimes related to corruption, the CCAC has constantly been reinforcing and strengthening the communication and cooperation with anti-corruption departments in the Chinese mainland and Hong Kong as well as actively participated in professional seminars and training activities held in other countries or territories – in a bid to keep the CCAC's personnel updated in the sense and strategies of law enforcement and in a practical way face new challenges in anti-corruption arisen from technological and social development.

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6

The Commissioner Against Corruption Cheong Weng Chon