

18 December 2024

For Immediate Release

Competition Commission and ICAC sign MoU to strengthen cooperation
30 staff members completed first joint enforcement training

The Competition Commission (Commission) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Independent Commission Against Corruption (ICAC) today to strengthen cooperation and exchanges between the two agencies. The MoU establishes a framework for collaboration on matters including referral of cases, joint investigations and research, with the aim of enhancing the overall effectiveness in combating illegal activities that involve both anti-competitive and corruption elements.

Under the MoU, the Commission and the ICAC agree to proactively refer to each other matters that may fall within the other's functions. Where a case comes under the functions of both agencies, they may agree to commence a joint investigation as a way to optimise the use of their respective resources as well as to increase the effectiveness of the investigation. Each agency will also actively consider requests for investigative assistance from the other agency.

The MoU also establishes a platform for the two agencies to coordinate their training initiatives, which include the organisation of joint training programmes to enhance the capabilities of their staff. In this regard, the Commission and the ICAC conducted their first "Training on Joint Operations Against Corruption and Anti-competitive Conduct" in the past two days (17 and 18 December). Altogether 30 staff members from both sides completed the inaugural training, which encompassed both theoretical knowledge and practical skills, covering theories and simulated exercises on joint operations such as planning an operation, conducting searches and interviewing suspects.

Mr. Samuel Chan, Chairman of the Commission, said, "Anti-competitive conduct may sometimes involve elements that contravene not only the Competition Ordinance, but also other areas of law. To ensure an effective and collaborative approach in tackling such cases, the Commission has been proactive in strengthening cooperation with fellow law enforcers in Hong Kong. The signing of MoU with the ICAC today is an important step forward to consolidate the partnership, with a view to fostering greater synergy between the two agencies in their joint effort to safeguard a clean and level-playing field for all businesses in Hong Kong."

ICAC Commissioner, Mr. Woo Ying-ming, said, "The ICAC and the Competition Commission play a pivotal role in the Hong Kong society. Fighting corruption and procuring fair competition is crucial for enhancing Hong Kong's international image and sustaining its status as the world's freest economy."

The MoU was signed today by the Commission's Chief Executive Officer Mr. Rasul Butt and ICAC's Deputy Commissioner and Head of Operations Mr. Ricky Yau, witnessed by Mr. Samuel Chan, Chairman of the Commission, and Mr. Woo Ying-ming, ICAC Commissioner.

The Commission and the ICAC have been working closely with each other, with two joint operations conducted in April¹ and August² this year against suspected bid-rigging and corruption in the building maintenance sector. The two agencies conducted searches at about 60 premises during the operations,

¹ See the Commission's [press release](#) dated 18 April 2024.

² See the Commission's [press release](#) dated 26 August 2024.

neutralising a newly-rising syndicate engaging in bid-rigging and corruption. The investigation carried out by the Commission in the case concerned renovation projects at 38 residential estates / buildings and industrial buildings, with the value of the relevant contracts worth over HK\$1 billion in total.

(Photos attached)

Photo Caption:



(From right to left): Mr. Samuel Chan, Chairman of the Competition Commission, Mr. Rasul Butt, Chief Executive Officer of the Competition Commission, Mr. Ricky Yau, Deputy Commissioner and Head of Operations of the ICAC and Mr. Woo Ying-ming, Commissioner of the ICAC at the MoU signing ceremony today



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Group photo of representatives from the Competition Commission and the ICAC



First “Training on Joint Operations Against Corruption and Anti-competitive Conduct” jointly conducted by the Competition Commission and the ICAC