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Combating Corruption. Japanese Experience

The Japanese experience in combating corruption proves that the absence of a single, codified act aimed to combat corruption does not prevent effective resolution of the problem. The rules of anti-corruption nature are contained in many national laws. Particular importance the Japanese legislator gives to prohibitions against politicians, state and municipal officials. They include, in particular, numerous measures that would politically neutralize a Japanese official in relation to private business both during service and after release.

Just like in Singapore, the Japanese legislator imposes strict restrictions on the financing of election campaigns, parties and other political organizations, introduces strictly regulated procedures for donations in favor on candidates for elections, political foundations, and establishes strict financial reporting procedures. Violation of the provisions of the law entails application of sanctions.

The Japanese legislator qualifies as a criminal offense the actions of politicians, that punch for a reward from the person concerned advantageous solution by influence the state, municipal official, as well as legal entities with 50 % of the capital of the state or local self-government. In Japan, as in many countries, human resources policy is one of the main areas of the fight against a corruption. Japanese civil servants are guaranteed decent wages. The Japanese legislator pays great attention to the ethical behavior of politicians and employees. Since April 2000, the country has the Law “On the Ethics of Civil Servants”, as well as government’s decree approving the ethical rules of the civil servant and the rules of administrative punishments for their violation. In the ethical rules of a civil servant, the definition of an “interested person” and a detailed list of unethical actions are excluded, which excludes arbitrary interpretation of the requirements of the law. In April 2001 the law “On Disclosure of Information” came into force in Japan. This act guarantees citizens the right to access official information held by government agencies and the possibility to appealing to the Council for the control of disclosure in the event that government decides not to disclose certain information. These conditions allowed civic organizations to expose several cases of corruption. Thus, in Japan the priority areas in the fight against corruption are: 1) measures of political economy; 2) the reform of the civil service; 3) the providing of public freedoms. Language adviser ***Krasnova N.V.***