

Special Session on Data Protection Authorities and NHRIs “Their role and responsibilities to protect individual privacy”

**GrandBall Room, Hotel Plaza, Seoul
Friday, 29 June 14:00-16:00 hrs
(English and Korean Simultaneous interpretation)**

■ Back ground

The article 12 of Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the article 17 of International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights uphold the right to privacy as a human right and today the privacy and protection of personal information is regarded as one of the most essential human right issues in this information-oriented society.

However, with development of internet and information technology (IT), human rights violation cases are also increasing. Government agencies and businesses seek to collect personal data thus incidents of personal information leakage have also increased accordingly.

To resolve these problems, in 1995, EU has enacted Privacy Directive and obligated member states to establish Data Protection Authority (hereafter DPA) entitled with autonomy and power to investigate. Also developed countries including Great Britain and France had established DPA long ago and continuously exerted endeavors in privacy protection.

National Human Rights Commission of Korea also expressed its opinion to establish a DPA which has lawful authority and power to investigate without interference of external forces. As a result, the DPA was established in Sep 2011 with the enactment of 'Privacy Protection Act'.

Nevertheless, personal information of 35 millions had been leaked out of a portal cite, recently in Korea, and this incident became a social issue and brought up needs to enhance personal data protection system in order to effectively protect human rights. Also International Conference of Data Protection and Privacy Commissioners (hereafter ICDPC) reiterated the significance of independence and power to investigate of the data protection authority in accordance with UN Paris Principle.

Programme

■ **Chair: Prof. Yi-Jong SUH, Department of Sociology, Seoul National University**

■ **Presentation (14:10-14:40)**

- Mr. Chang-Beom YI, Doctor of Laws, Former Director of Korea Internet & Security Agency

Keynote Speaker will recognize the growing importance of individual privacy and the key roles and characteristics of data protection authority as reflected in the “Paris Principles”. He is also expected to analyze international flow and inclination of ICDPC and to consider the role of the stakeholders in making a more inclusive and sustainable society. (30 minutes)

■ **Panel Discussion (14:40-15:40)**

- Prof. Inho LEE, Law School of ChungAng University
- Mr. Hakyung JEONG, Standing Commissioner, Personnel Information Protection Commission
- Sophie Kwasny, Lawyer, Council of Europe
- Philippos Mitleton, Vice President, European Association of Human Rights

Panelists are encouraged to present their own perspectives on how to protect the individual privacy and the role of the data protection authority including human rights commission. In this session, domestic and international experiences and perspectives will be exchanged to present seminar audience a comprehensive view. Particularly, countries where Data Protection Authority has enacted privacy protection law will illustrate model cases of their experiences.

In general, this session will provide a forum to share the experiences, give lectures, and have discussions regarding the roles of national human rights commission in effectively implementing the goals set forth by many international human rights institutions including ICDPC.

■ **Genral Discussion and Closing Remarks (15:40-16:00)**