

Foreign companies in China face growing scrutiny, pressure

BEIJING — Foreign companies are under growing pressure in China from anti-corruption, national security and other investigations as President Xi Jinping's government tightens control over business, clashing with efforts to lure back investors after the pandemic.

This week, Bain & Co. said police questioned staff in its Shanghai office. The consulting company gave no details of what investigators were looking for. Last month, the corporate due diligence firm Mintz Group said its Beijing office was raided by police

who detained five employees. Also last month, an employee of a Japanese drug maker was detained on spying charges and the government announced a security review of memory chip maker Micron Inc.

The ruling Communist Party is trying to reignite investor interest in China despite increased political control over the economy. Business groups have said global companies are shifting investment plans to Southeast Asia, India and other economies.

“At a time when China is proactively trying to restore busi-

ness confidence to attract foreign investment, the actions taken send a very mixed signal,” the European Union Chamber of Commerce in China said Friday in a statement.

A foreign ministry spokesperson said she didn't know about the Bain & Co. case but defended Chinese law enforcement.

“China welcomes foreign companies to invest and do business in China. We are committed to building an internationalized, market-oriented and law-based business environment,” [SOURCE](#)

Corruption cannot be stopped by showing flexibility

The High Court has observed that corruption cannot be stopped by showing flexibility. Quoting a Nobel laureate, the HC said South Asian countries have flexibility on corruption. To stop corruption, the anti-graft body has to go hardline, it also observed.

The High Court bench of Justice Md Nazrul Islam Talukder and Justice Mohammad Showkat Ali Chowdhury passed the observation on Tuesday, while hearing on a Suo Motu (on its own motion) matter.

The court further said, “If you want to stop corruption, three things must be followed. A strict system against corruption must be established, laws must be obeyed and enforced, and be accountable to the people.”..... [SOURCE](#)



The National Anti-Corruption Commission in Thailand (NACC) noted Private sector must have clear details of bribery-prone activities

BANGKOK THAILAND - Media OutReach - 28 April 2023 - The National Anti-Corruption Commission (NACC) encourages the private sector not to offer bribes to government officers and advises them to impose internal measures to control bribery risks.

NACC Secretary-General Niwatchai Kasemmongkol said bribery was a national problem and

there were cases in which bribes were offered for business benefits across borders, affecting the country's credibility and efficiency of budgetary spending. The NACC, therefore, promoted good governance in the public sector to create the “No Gift” culture, he said.

NACC has set up Anti-Bribery Advisory Service..... [SOURCE](#)