

proposal by CLRC. In addition, many CLRC relief orders have been revoked by the judicial branch. It usually takes approximately 10 years to complete this type of lawsuit, suggesting that it would take 12 or 13 years to complete the overall dispute resolution processes. As a result, other ULP cases have also been delayed. LRCs, and CLRC in particular, have needed to handle vastly increased caseloads.

CLRC is working to resolve pending JR-related cases through settlement. However, as CLRC accepts new complaints every year, the commission still had 78 pending JR-related cases as of December 2005.

5. Speeding up the ULP procedure and amending Trade Union Law

LRCs face major challenges: Handling long-term pending cases, and conducting the ULP procedure in a more adequate manner. More and more complaints remain unsolved for a long time, particularly JR-related cases and other labour disputes arising from certain specific labour-management relations. Experts are concerned that it takes a longer time to complete the ULP procedure on unfair labour practices.

For this reason, LRCs and the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare started exploring a possible solution for accelerating ULP procedure, improving the fact-finding process, and delivering more adequate decisions. They made practicable efforts, and lawmakers significantly amended the Trade Union Law in 2004 (the amended law became effective on January 1, 2005), intending to significantly improve ULP procedures on unfair labour practices.

Since this amendment to the Trade Union Law, CLRC now handles complaints more quickly, and successfully completed a total of 122 cases in 2005.

春



Spring