UNCITRAL Working Group V (Insolvency Law) Fifty-first session New York, 10-19 May, 2017

REPUBLIC OF KOREA

Special Rehabilitation Proceedings for MSMEs

Min HAN (Professor, Ewha Womans University Law School, Seoul, Korea)

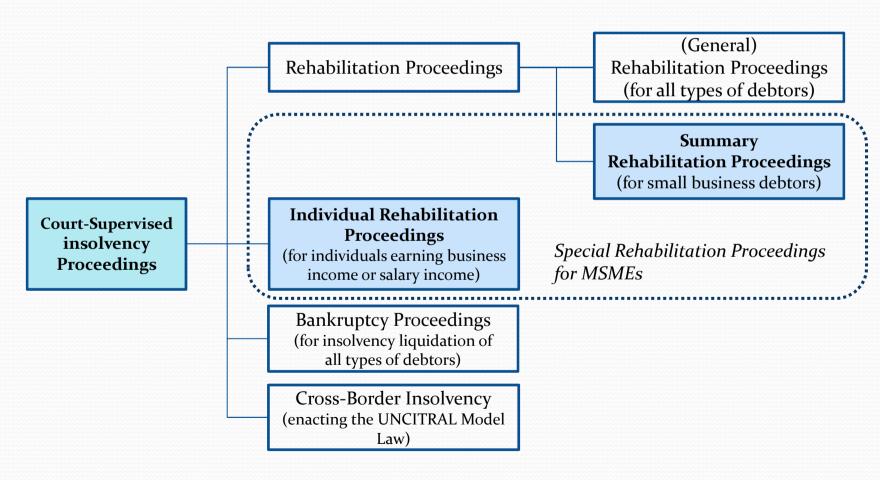
Jaechul CHO (Public Prosecutor, Ministry of Justice of Korea)

Contents

- I. Court-Supervised Insolvency Proceedings in Korea
- **II. Individual Rehabilitation Proceedings**
- **III. Summary Rehabilitation Proceedings**
- IV. Statistics of the Recent Rehabilitation Proceeding Cases
- V. Concluding Remarks

L. Court-Supervised Insolvency Proceedings in Korea

Types of Insolvency Proceedings



I. Court-Supervised Insolvency Proceedings in Korea

Comparison of the Basic Structures

Proceedings	Eligible Debtors		Subject Claims/	Payment Period	Voting on	
	Types	Maximum Debt	Ínterests	under the Plan	the Plan	Discharge
(General) Rehabilitation Proceedings	all types of debtors (mainly for corporations)	N/A	secured claims / unsecured claims/ (if applicable) equity interests	up to 10 years (in principle)	Yes	effective upon court's approval of the plan
Summary Rehabilitation Proceedings	small business debtors (including corporations/ individuals)	KRW 3 billion (US\$ 3 M)	same as above			
Individual Rehabilitation Proceedings	individuals earning business income/salary income	 secured debt: KRW 1 billion (US\$ 1 M) unsecured debt: KRW 500 million (US\$ 0.5 M) 	unsecured claims	up to 5 years	No	effective upon court's discharge order, in principle, after completion of payment under the plan
Bankruptcy Proceedings (insolvent liquidation)	all types of debtors	N/A	unsecured claims	N/A	N/A	(for individuals) effective upon court's discharge order

II. Individual Rehabilitation Proceedings

Procedures and Statutory Timeline

Procedures	Statutory Timeline (* may be extended by the court with cause)
Debtor's petition for commencement (including submission of the list of claims, among others)	
Appointment of the rehabilitation commissioner	
Court's preservation/stay orders	
Debtor's filing of draft plan	within 14 days from petition*
Court's commencement order	within 1 month from petition
Objection to the list of claims by the creditors	between 2 weeks ~ 2 months from commencement*
Creditors' meeting for briefing on, and objections to the plan (voting on the plan not required)	between 2 weeks~1 month thereafter (no later than 3 months from commencement)*
Court's approval of the plan	
Payment under the plan (monitored by the rehabilitation commissioner)	no longer than 5 years from the first payment under the plan
Discharge of pre-commencement debts (except for certain specified categories of debts)	in principle, after completion of payment under the plan

II. Individual Rehabilitation Proceedings

Rehabilitation Commissioner

- appointed asap after the petition has been filed
- duties: under supervision by the court
 - examination of the debtor's property and income; administration of the creditors' meeting; participation in avoidance actions; recommendations to the debtor on the preparation of the plan; monitoring of the debtor's implementation of the plan, etc.

for salary income earners:

a qualified court official - no fee is payable

for business income earners:

- an outside professional (e.g., an individual CPA) until court's approval of the plan - minimal fee
- thereafter, a qualified court official no fee is payable

 Amendment of the DRBA in 2014 (Effective from July 1, 2015)

Challenges for MSMEs pursuing rehabilitation

- limited availability of the Individual Rehabilitation Proceedings
- burdens (heavier procedures and costs) in using the general Rehabilitation Proceedings

Legislative Purposes

- simplified and low-costs procedures
- expanding the scope of the eligible MSMEs

Basic Structure common with Rehabilitation
 Proceedings + "Special Features"

Special Features

- Eligible debtors
 - debtors earning business income and owing small amount of debt (less than approximately US\$ 3 million)
 - no record of having obtained discharge within the past 5 years
 - Only the debtor is entitled to file a petition.
- No appointment of a Trustee
- No creditors' committee

- Simplified examination procedures reduction of time and costs
 - examination of the debtor's business and property by the court-appointed examiner and the examiner's report thereon may be made in simplified form and substance.
 - for corporate MSMEs:
 - Usually, an individual CPA is appointed.
 - fees: approximately US\$ 3,000~ US\$ 5,000 (in case of general Rehab. Proceedings: US\$ 15,000~ US\$ 120,000)
 - for individual MSMEs:
 - Usually, a qualified court official is appointed.
 - No fee is payable.
- Relaxed requirement for creditors' acceptance of the plan
- Conversion to a general Rehabilitation Proceeding

Seoul Bankruptcy Court's Practice

Recent introduction of new bankruptcy court system

 The Seoul Bankruptcy Court: newly established on March 2, 2017 as the first specialized bankruptcy court in Korea

Concentration of cases

 Rehabilitation Proceeding cases for corporate MSMEs are assigned exclusively to two specialized panels of judges.

Parallel conduct of personal rehab. cases

 Personal rehabilitation cases for the owners/management of corporate MSMEs: conducted by a single judge belonging to the panel in charge of the Summary Rehabilitation Proceeding for such corporate MSME.

Fast-Track Procedures applied by the Seoul Bankruptcy Court

Procedures		Timeline	
		Statutory $(*$ may be extended by the court with cause)	Practice
Petition for commencement			D
Preservation/stay orders		no later than 7 days from petition	D~D+3
Commencement order (including the appointment of the examiner)		within 1 month from petition	~D+14
Filing of schedules (lists of claims and equity interests)		2 weeks ~ 2 months from commencement*	~D+28
Reporting of claims by creditors (if necessary)		1 week \sim 1 month from the last day for filing of schedules *	~D+35
Verification of claims		1 week \sim 1 month from the last day for reporting of claims *	~D+42
Submission of examination report by the examiner			~D+56
Notification of material information to the interested parties			~D+63
Submission of draft plan		no later than 4 months (or 2 months if the debtor is an individual) commencing from the last day for verification of claims*	~D+70
Interested parties' meetings for deliberations and voting on the plan		the plan must be accepted within 1 year from commencement* (extendable by up to 6 months)	~D+ 98
Court's approval of the plan (discharge being effective)		appealable within 14 days	~D+98
Commencement of payment under the plan			
Court's conclusion order (successful exit from the proceeding)			

Entire rehabilitation cases

(Nation-wide; July 1, 2015 ~ March 31, 2017)

Proceedings	Debtors	Number of Petition
(General) Rehabilitation Proceedings	Corporations **	1,153
	Individuals	932
Summary Rehabilitation Proceedings	Corporations (small business debtors)	472
	Individuals (small business debtors)	431
Individual Rehabilitation Proceedings	Individuals (business income)	14,973
	Individuals (salary income)	144,366
Т	162,327	

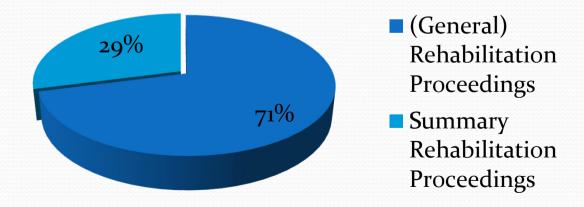
X The term "Corporations" used in this Chapter IV includes corporations and other juridical entities.

Rehabilitation cases for corporations

(Nation-wide; July 1, 2015 ~ March 31, 2017)

Proceedings	Debtors	Proportion
(General) Rehabilitation Proceedings	Corporations	71% (1,153)
Summary Rehabilitation Proceedings	Corporations (small business debtors)	29% (472)
To	100% (1,625)	

The proportion of the Summary Rehabilitation Proceedings

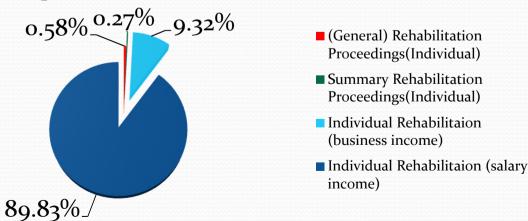


Rehabilitation cases for individuals

(Nation-wide; July 1, 2015 ~ March 31, 2017)

Proceedings	Debtors	Proportion
(General) Rehabilitation Proceedings	Individuals	0.58% (932)
Summary Rehabilitation Proceedings	Individuals (small business debtors)	0.27% (431)
Individual	Individuals (business income)	9.32% (14,973)
Rehabilitation Proceedings	Individuals (salary income)	89.83% (144,366)
	100% (160,702)	

Proportion of the rehabilitation cases for individuals



Average period from petition until court's approval of the plan

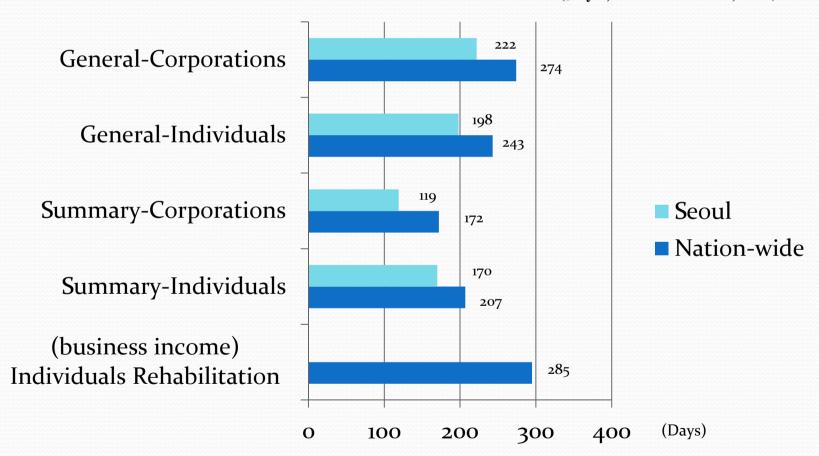
(Nation-wide; July 1, 2015 ~ March 31, 2017)

Proceedings	Debtors	Average periods from petition to court's approval of the plan	
(General)	Corporations	274 days (Seoul: 222)	
Rehabilitation Proceedings	Individuals	243 days (Seoul: 198)	
Summary	Corporations 172 days (Seoul: 119)		
Rehabilitation Proceedings	Individuals	207 days (Seoul: 170)	
Individual Rehabilitation Proceedings	Individuals (business income)	285 days	

^{}** "Seoul": based on the cases handled by the former Seoul Central District Court (July 1, 2015~ February 28, 2017) and the Seoul Bankruptcy Court (March 2, 2017 ~ March 31, 2017).

Average period from petition until court's approval of the plan

 $(July 1, 2015 \sim March 31, 2017)$



Success rates of the commencement and plan approval/discharge

(Nation-wide; July 1, 2015 ~ March 31, 2017)

Proceedings	Debtors	Approximates rates of commencement (compared with the number of petitions)*(1)	Approximate rates of plan approval/discharge (compared with the number of commencements)
(General)	Corporations	67.1% (90.0%)	52.0%
Rehabilitation Proceedings	Individuals	70.0% (93.5%)	47.9%
Summary Rehabilitation Proceedings	Corporations	74.6% (91.9%)	50.4%
	Individuals	70.3% (94.2%)	46.9%
Individual Rehabilitation Proceedings	Individuals (business income)	82.8% (86.8%)	86.0% (plan approval rate) x 42.7% (estimated discharge rate) = 36.7% *(2)

^{* (1)} If only the court's rejection on the merits is considered, the successful commencement rates increase as indicated in the parentheses.

^{* (2) &}quot;discharge rate" in the Individual Rehabilitation Proceedings is the average discharge rate of the plan-approved cases for both business income earners and salary income earners.

V. Concluding Remarks

- Summary Rehabilitation Proceedings are streamlined, fast and low-cost procedures and are functioning well for rehabilitation of MSMEs (in particular, for corporate MSMEs) in financial distress and are being used extensively in practice.
- Substantial improvement of the insolvency law practice is expected by the establishment of the new specialized bankruptcy court system.
- On the occasion of 10th anniversary of the DRBA, overall improvements to the DRBA are under deliberation.