Secretariat of the International Conference of Asian Political Parties

His Excellency Ban Ki-moon
Secretary General
The United Nations
New York, N.Y.

October 11, 2011

Dear Mr. Secretary General,

We extend warm greetings and good wishes to Your Excellency on behalf of the International Conference of Asian Political Parties(ICAPP), which represents over 340 political parties, both in government and opposition, in Asia.

On the occasion of our special meeting with you today, we submit this letter suggesting that perhaps the present is a good time for the United Nations to renew the Global Inter-Faith Dialogue it sponsored in regions and key countries in the aftermath of the September 11 terrorist attacks in 2001.

Understanding among the great religions and cultures still is the only basis for the enduring peace in the world, and our need to mobilize churches, temples, mosques and synagogues, no less than political parties and civil societies, to promote a global culture of peace and mutual tolerance is as imperative as it was then. Indeed, our need to bring peoples together may even be more acute after the recent flashpoints of conflicts created by an internet film and magazine cartoons that some Islamic communities find extremely offensive to their religion.

Your Excellency will recall that the ICAPP has collectively been promoting and commending to the United Nations a proposal to create an Inter-Faith Council as a special forum under the ECOSOC. We now regard action on this resolution to be worth considering and even compelling.

Meanwhile, the ICAPP has helped establish an Asian Peace and Reconciliation Council(APRC), based in Bangkok, and we have nominated Dr. Suriakart Sathirathai, Former Deputy Prime Minister of Thailand, to be Chairman. We had the privilege to initiate the APRC because numerous conflicts in our region require the support of Track 1.5 to Track 2 diplomacy as well. The members of the APRC are mostly elder statesmen not only from Asia but also from Europe, and we hope that the APRC can assist the relevant agencies of the United Nations in resolving conflict situations. Dr. Suriakart has indicated that he would also write to you shortly on APRC's plan for future activities.

Excellency, we will soon travel to Mexico City to attend the 3rd Joint Meeting between the ICAPP and the COPPPAL, Permanent Conference of Political Parties in Latin America and the Caribbean, during October 13-14. The meeting will be hosted by the PRI, Institutional Revolutionary Party, of Mexico and convened by Mexico's President-elect Enrique Pena Nieto.

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We had recently written to the president-elect, following our meeting with him in Mexico City last July, to consider convening, in possible partnership with the United Nations, a Global Summit to Fight against Narcotics Cartels as production and distribution of narcotics is growing in various parts of the world.

We thank you most sincerely, Mr. Secretary General, for your continuous support for the ICAPP's efforts to obtain observer status in the activities of the U.N. General Assembly. We are also most grateful for your statements at various ICAPP assemblies endorsing and encouraging our programs to fight poverty, corruption, extremism and climate change, and support the U.N. Millennium Development Goals and our fresh campaign to help bring about peace and reconciliation in conflict areas of Asia.

Please accept, Excellency, assurances of our highest esteem.

Jose de Venecia, Jr.
Founding Chairman and Co-Chairman
of the Standing Committee
(Former Speaker of the Philippine
House of Representatives)

Chung Eui-yong
Co-Chairman of the Standing
Committee and Secretary General
(Former Chairman of the Foreign
Relations Committee of Korea's
Democratic United Party)

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