Secretariat of the International Conference of Asian Political Parties

His Excellency Joseph Deiss
President of the 65th Session of the General Assembly
United Nations
866 United Nations Plaza, Suite A-0313
New York, N.Y. 10017-6706

January 10, 2011

Excellency,

We are writing, on behalf of the International Conference of Asian Political Parties (ICAPP), to request that our Conference be accredited to take part in the sessions and works of the General Assembly as an Observer.

ICAPP was founded in Manila (Philippines) in September 2000, to build bridges of political cooperation and to establish networks of mutual benefit among mainstream political parties in Asia, both ruling and in opposition. Over its first decade, ICAPP has grown steadily in both membership and influence. As of December 2010, ICAPP's membership has reached more than 300 eligible political parties in 52 Asian states. After establishing fraternal linkages and cooperation with COPPPAL, the Permanent Conference of Political Parties in Latin America and the Caribbean, in 2008, we are also undertaking efforts to reach out to the political parties in Africa.

So far ICAPP has held six General Assemblies—in Manila (2000), Bangkok (2002), Beijing (2004), Seoul (2006), Astana (2009), and Phnom Penh (2010). These assemblies have brought together the Asian continent's most prominent political leaders to search for ways of co-existing in a more peaceful, more democratic and more prosperous Asia. Our Standing Committee—made up of 18 leading political parties in 18 states—has met at least twice a year since 2004. ICAPP also organizes Special Conferences on key continental issues—such as those of minimizing political corruption, strengthening state capacity, and easing mass poverty. We are currently planning a special conference on natural disasters and environmental protection; it is to be held in Malaysia in early May this year.

From its inception, ICAPP has been a staunch supporter of the United Nations and its activities. The first paragraph of the Preamble of the ICAPP Charter, adopted in September 2006, declares ICAPP's unequivocal commitment to the principles and objectives of the UN Charter. Representatives of the political parties that took part in ICAPP's 6th General Assembly in Phnom Penh (Cambodia) during December 1-4, 2010 unanimously adopted the Phnom Penh Declaration endorsing ICAPP's bid for Observer Status to the General Assembly. Even now our Secretariat is coordinating with the governments of our UN-member States joint initiatives toward the same objective.

We believe, Excellency, that ICAPP can play a major role in forging cooperation between the United Nations and the political parties not only of Asia but also of Latin America and Africa—the three continents of the emerging democracies—in the following areas:

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#510-3 King's Garden Office Complex, 72 Naesu-dong ,Jongro-ku, 110-872 Seoul, Korea
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(a) Aggregating and channeling to the United Nations system the views of our peoples in all their diversity, as expressed in political debates and discussions at all dimensions, local, national and continental;

(b) Promoting ordinary people's awareness, approval and support of international agreements reached at the United Nations and through UN programs;

(c) Building international consensus on United Nations action to meet key global challenges; and

(d) Providing support for political parties in the emerging democracies—to increase their capacity to carry out at local and national level their lawmaking and oversight functions on matters subject to international cooperation at the United Nations.

For your information and ready reference, Excellency, we enclose an Internal Report on ICAPP's first ten years and a copy of the Phnom Penh Declaration adopted at the 6th General Assembly of the ICAPP in December 2010. More information on ICAPP activities may be found on our website at www.theicapp.org.

We hope that our request for Observer Status to the U.N. General Assembly will merit the General Assembly's favor, and be included in its agenda during its 66th Session. We look forward to hearing from you at your earliest convenience.

Please accept, Excellency, every assurance of our highest consideration.

Jose de Venecia, Jr.
Founding Chairman and
Co-Chairman of the
Standing Committee
Manila, Philippines

Chung Eui-yong
Co-Chairman of the Standing
Committee and Secretary General
Seoul, Korea

Enclosures: As stated.

Cc:
H.E. Ban Ki Moon, Secretary General of the United Nations
Mr. Thomas Stelzer, U.N. Assistant Secretary General for Policy Coordination

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