Conclusions
of the 28th Meeting of the ICAPP Standing Committee
(Seoul, Korea, July 7, 2017)

Draft as of 20 July

The 28th Meeting (hereinafter referred to as "the Meeting") of the Standing Committee (hereinafter referred to as "the SC") of the International Conference of Asian Political Parties (hereinafter referred to as "the ICAPP") was held at Orchid Hall of Plaza Hotel in Seoul, Republic of Korea on July 7 on the sidelines of the 3rd Meeting of the ICAPP Media Forum and the 1st Meeting of the Asia Europe Political Forum which was co-hosted by the ICAPP Parliamentarians' Union in the National Assembly of the Republic of Korea and the Secretariat of the ICAPP during July 6-10, 2017.

The list of participants and annotated agenda of the Meeting are attached as ***Appendixes I-1 and I-2.***

The Meeting was chaired by Hon. Jose de Venecia, Jr., Chairman of the SC of the ICAPP.

Moments of Silence

Before convening the meeting formally, the SC Members had the moment of silence, proposed by the Chairman, for Hon Mushahid Hussain Sayed's father, the founding father of Pakistan who passed away recently at the age of 97.

The moment of silence was followed in honour of the late Hon. Samdech Vibol Panha Sok An, Vice Chairman of the ICAPP SC, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister in charge of the Office of the Ministers, and Member of the Supreme Council of the Cambodian People's Party (hereinafter referred to as "CPP"), with the proposal of Hon. Vijay Jolly, Senior Indian BJP Leader.

Issues relating to the ICAPP Standing Committee (SC)

Passing Away of Hon. Samdech Vibol Panha Sok An

It was reported that Hon. Samdch Vibol Panha Sok An, Vice Chairman of the ICAPP SC, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister in charge of the Office of the Ministers, and Member of the Supreme Council of the CPP passed away in the evening of March 15, 2017.

In this regard, Hon. Chung Eui-yong, Co-Chairman of the SC and Secretary General of the ICAPP, attended the funeral service of the late Deputy Prime Minister held in Phnom Penh in the morning of March 19 on behalf of the ICAPP SC, and delivered condolences to Hon. Hun Sen, Prime Minister, Hon. Heng Samrin, Speaker of the National Assembly, and Hon. Say Chhum, President of the Senate and Secretary General of the CPP. Mr. Chung, in particular, recognized the great leadership and contributions of the late DPM in the development of the ICAPP. At a separate meeting with Hon. Chung, Hon. Say Chhum confirmed that the CPP would continue to support the ICAPP activities and nominate a high-level government official as the representative to the ICAPP SC.

Hon. Chung also paid a visit to Madam Annie Sok An at her residence and personally delivered all the letters of condolence that the Secretariat had received from SC Members. She expressed profound gratitude to all SC Members for their heartfelt condolences and sympathy.

New Members of the SC

The SC Members welcomed the following five new members of the SC:

- Hon. Dato' Dr. Hou Kok Chung, Vice President of the Malaysian Chinese Association (hereinafter referred to as "MCA") and Chairman of the Institute of Strategic Analysis & Policy Research (INSAP), who was newly nominated by the MCA,
- Hon. Hiroe Makiyama, newly appointed Director-General of the International Department of the Democratic Party of Japan (DPJ), who has replaced Hon. Yukihisa Fujita (Hon. Naoki Kazama, Member of the House of Councillors and Vice Director General of International Department of the Party attended the Meeting on her behalf.),
- Hon. Munkhjin Batsumber, Head of the Office for International Cooperation and Member of the Mongolian People's Party of Mongolia, who has replaced Hon. Davaasuren Damdinsuren (Mr. Ganbat Dashdondog, Senior Advisor to the President of the Social Democracy Youth Union attended the Meeting on his behalf.),
- Hon. U Wunna Maung Lwin, Member of the Central Executive Committee in charge of International Relations Committee, Union Solidarity and Development Party (USDP), and former Minister for Foreign Affairs of Republic of the Union of Myanmar, who has replaced Hon. U Khin Yi
- Hon. Mohammad Reza Sarmadi, Deputy Secretary of International Relations, who was newly nominated by Islamic Labour Party (with the agreement and recommendation of the Islamic *Motalefeh* Party of Iran).

As the result, out of 23 countries, 15 countries, i.e. Bangladesh, Cambodia, India, Indonesia, Iran, Japan, Republic of Korea, Lebanon, Malaysia, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Thailand, will now be represented by two principal political parties in their respective countries in the SC, and the SC is composed of 38 political parties from 23 countries. The updated list of the SC is attached as ***Appendix II.***

Future Meetings of the SC

The SC Members agreed to hold the 29th SC Meeting in October or November 2017 in Tehran, Iran. The 29th SC Meeting will be hosted by the Islamic *Motalefeh* Party.

In this regard, Hon. Hassan Ghafouri Fard, Former Vice President of Iran and Member of the Central Committee of the Islamic *Motalefeh* Party of Iran, expressed that since the president of Iran was newly elected last month, he will consult with the president to get an exact date in October or November and also confirmed the previous offer to host the ICAPP Special Conference on the Silk Road in Tehran back-to-back with the 29th SC Meeting. (See ***Appendix III***)

The dates will be notified in due course.

Review of the ICAPP Activities since 27th SC Meeting in September 2016

Report on the Results of the ICAPP Special Conference on Migration and Refugees (Istanbul, November 4-6, 2016)

It was reported that representatives of 39 political parties of 22 countries in the region, and observers from CAPP (Council of African Political Parties), ACRE (Alliance of Conservatives and Reformists in Europe), UNHCR (Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees), IOM (International Organization for Migration), and the relevant government agencies attended the ICAPP Special Conference on Migration and Refugees in Istanbul, Turkey during November 4-6, 2016 under the auspice of the Justice And Development Party (*AK Parti)*.

The program, the list of participants, and the Istanbul Statement on Migration and Refugees are attached in ***Appendixes IV-1, IV-2, and IV-3.***

Report on the Results of the Informal Meeting of the SC (Istanbul, November 4, 2016)

It was also reported that the 17 SC Members and 1 observer from the CAPP attended the informal ICAPP SC in Istanbul in the evening of November 4, 2017, on the sideline of the Special Conference on Migration and Refugees.

The list of participants and the conclusions of the meeting are attached as ***Appendix V-1 and V-2.***

Report of the ICAPP Mission to the U.N. General Assembly (October 6-11, 2016)

It was also reported that the ICAPP mission to U.N. composed of Hon. Chung Eui-yong, Co-Chairman of the Standing Committee, Hon. Mushahid Hussain Sayed, Special Rapporteur of the Standing Committee and Senator of Pakistan, Hon. Theo Sambuaga, SC Member representing the GOLKAR Party of Indonesia and Hon. Youssef Awad, SC Member representing the Free Patriotic Movement Party of Lebanon, respectively

The draft resolution to invite the ICAPP to UNGA as an observer was co-sponsored by 13 member states (Australia, Azerbaijan, Cambodia, Indonesia, Japan, Republic of Korea, Lebanon, Malaysia, Mongolia, Nepal, the Netherlands, the Philippines and Sri Lanka) and was deliberated at the Sixth Committee meeting of the 71st session of the U.N. General Assembly on October 11.

Three more member states, i.e. Bangladesh, Iran and Turkey, in addition to the co-sponsors, made statements supporting the draft resolution. Consensus was not reached due to reservations expressed by three member states, i.e. Russia, Syria and Venezuela, on the ground that the ICAPP is not an inter-governmental organization, thus does not meet one of the criteria set by the General Assembly for granting observer status.

In the absence of consensus, the Chairman of the Sixth Committee concluded discussions on the item by recommending member states to continue consultation among them and to revert to it at later stage.

Under the circumstances, the representatives of several co-sponsoring member states advised the ICAPP Secretariat later that the co-sponsors announce their decision not to pursue the request for observer status at the current session of the UNGA, while reserving the right to present it at a future session.

They also proposed to recommend the Sixth Committee to conclude its consideration of the item on the ICAPP without taking action at its meeting in late October or November, as was the decision taken on the same agenda item at the Sixth Committee meeting on November 19, 2013. It was their view that, under the circumstances, it seems difficult to expect to win the consensus in the foreseeable future, and it may be the best way to defer consideration on the item to a future session as they did at the 68th session in November 2013.

In this regard, the Secretariat requested SC Members to submit their opinion on the above suggestion by ICAPP Update 16-61 of October 14, 2016, and there had been no objection. And the SC Members who attended the informal meeting in Istanbul on November 4 agreed to continue discussions as to what action the ICAPP should take on this matter at the 28th SC meeting.

Attached is the report of the ICAPP Mission to the U.N. during October 6-11, 2016. (See ***Appendix VI***)

Report of the ICAPP Mission to the European Parliament (November 30-December 2, 2016)

It was reported that the 1st Meeting of the Asia Europe Political Forum (AEPF) will be convened as the result of the ICAPP Mission to the European Parliament. The report of the Mission is attached as ***Appendix VII*.**

Preparations for ICAPP Media Forum and Asia-Europe Political Forum

3rd Meeting of the ICAPP Media Forum on July7, 2017

It was reported that 25 ICAPP SC members of political parties from 18 countries and 20 journalists from 13 countries in the region recommended by the SC members of their countries attended the 3rd Meeting of the ICAPP Media Forum in Seoul, Korea on July 7, 2017. The participants discussed on two topics, that is, the Role of Media in Political Democratization and the Role of Media in building an Asian Community.

The members elected the new Bureau Members of the Media Forum who will serve until the end of the Media Forum meeting in two years, and adopted Seoul statement on the role of media in political democratization and building an Asian community.

Program of the Meeting, Participants List, List of the new Bureau Members of the Media Forum, and the Statement are attached as ***Appendix VIII-1, VIII-2, VIII-3, and VIII-4.***

1st Meeting of Asia-Europe Political Forum (AEPF) on July 9

It was reported that the 1st Meeting of the Asia Europe Political Forum (hereinafter referred to as "AEPF") is scheduled to be held during July 7-10, 2017 in Seoul. SC Members of ICAPP and European delegations submitted suggestions for the two topics to be discussed as "climate change" and "populism in politics". Another minor topic added by the suggestion from a SC member is "Asia-Europe connectivity"

It was also suggested that participants adopt a brief joint statement, at the end of the meeting, on the future of the AEPF. The draft for the statement was prepared by the ICAPP Secretariat and circulated to all participants.

In addition, at the request of several representatives of the political party groups in the European Parliament (EP), the Secretariat prepared the tour of Panmunjom in the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ) on Saturday, 8th July.

Attached are the Program of the Meeting and Participants List. (See ***Appendix IX-1 and IX-2***)

The statement adopted at the 1st Meeting of the AEPF will be included in the AEPF publication.

Review of Other ICAPP Work Programs for 2017 and 2018

4th Meeting of the ICAPP Youth Wing (Mongolia, October 2017)

Mr. Ganbat Dashdondog, Senior Advisor to the President of the Social Democracy Mongolian Youth Union, Mongolian People's Party, stated that they need to postpone the 4th Meeting of the ICAPP Youth Wing from August to October due to the national electoral process is underway in Mongolia.
Hon. Dato Seri Shahidan bin Kassim, SC Member form Maysis and Chairperson of the Youth Wing stated that he will discuss with and help Mongolian side to hold the meeting, including visiting Mongolia in August.

The dates and place will be provided in due course.

5th Meeting of the ICAPP Women's Wing (Beirut, Spring 2018)

Hon. Yossef Awad, Coordinator for Asia and Overseas of Free Patriotic Movement Party, Lebanese Republic, proposed to postpone the 5th Meeting of the ICAPP Women's Wing from September 2017 to spring 2018 to give the parliamentary members time for adjusting to the new administration in Lebanon. He added that he had consulted with Hon. Fadi Fawaz, Advisor for Development Affairs to Hon. Saad Harir, Former Prime Minister and Chairman of Future Movement Party for this matter.

ICAPP Special Conference on the Silk Road (Tehran, October or November 2017)

It was confirmed again that the 29th SC Meeting and the ICAPP Special Conference on the Silk Road will be held in Tehran in October or November 2017.

More information, including the dates and agenda of the meeting will be provided in due course.

10th General Assembly of the ICAPP in 2018

SC Members from Pakistan, the Philippines, and Malaysia expressed their intention to host the 10th General Assembly of the ICAPP which will be held in the latter half of the year 2018.

Proposed joint meeting between the ICAPP and the APA

Hon. Afif Demirkiran, Deputy Chairman of Foreign Affair of the Justice and Development Party (AK *Parti*), explained that the general assembly meeting of APA is scheduled in Turkey in November 2017 and welcomed all the SC Members of the ICAPP as guests. And a special meeting between the ICAPP and the APA was also suggested.

Since the joint meeting between the ICAPP and the APA was long postponed, it will be discussed further after the exact date has been fixed.

Cooperation with the COPPPAL and CAPP

Establishment and the 1st Meeting of the Coordination Committee among the ICAPP Standing Committee, the COPPPAL Coordinating Body and the CAPP Executive Committee

SC members who attended the informal SC meeting in Istanbul on November 4 on the sideline of the ICAPP Special Conference on Migration and Refugees agreed to have the first Meeting of the Coordination Committee for Trilateral Cooperation among the ICAPP, COPPPAL and CAPP in Khartoum, Sudan in February 2017.

The meeting was to be attended by five representatives from each organization. The main purpose of the meeting was to discuss the areas and scope of trilateral cooperation among the political parties in three continents in accordance with the Jakarta Declaration on Trilateral Cooperation adopted on April 23, 2016 and to prepare for the 2nd Trilateral Meeting.

Despite repeated requests from the ICAPP, the Sudanese immigration authorities officially confirmed their decision to reject entry visas to an ICAPP delegation on the ground of bilateral political disputes ongoing between two countries. After close consultation with the SC Members who were planning to attend the meeting, the Secretariat decided to cancel the visit as Sudanese government was against one of the principles of the ICAPP and was not acceptable.

In this regard, the Secretariat will continue to closely coordinate with the COPPPAL and the CAPP on the venue and the time for the meeting which will be informed in due course.

Proposed Trilateral Meeting among ICAPP-COPPAL-CAPP at the 35th Plenary Meeting of the COPPPAL (Quito, Ecuador, November 2017)

Hon. Manolo Pichardo, President of the Permanent Conference of Political Parties of Latin America and the Caribbean (COPPPAL), suggested to hold the trilateral Meeting (1st Coordination Committee Meeting) with ICAPP-COPPPAL-CAPP in Quito, Ecuador in November 2017, in the framework of the 35th Ordinary Plenary Meeting of the COPPPAL, in a letter dated 23 February, 2017 addressed to the Chairman of the ICAPP as in ***Appendix X.***

There may be two options: One is to form a delegation of the ICAPP SC to the "Trilateral Meeting", or the other option is that the SC Members, if the situation permits, attend the Plenary Meeting of the COPPPAL individually as observers.

The Secretariat will continue to communicate with the COPPPAL to confirm the exact dates and the plan on the part of the COPPPAL, even though there seems to be some problem within the institution.

IV. Other Activities of the ICAPP

ICAPP's Bid for Observer Status in the U.N. General Assembly

SC Members who attended the informal meeting in Istanbul on November 4, 2016 agreed to continue discussions as to what action the ICAPP will take on this matter at future SC meetings.

The Secretariat suggested two options. One is to pursue the request for observer status of the ICAPP in the UNGA at the 72nd Session this year again, or to study what kind of new approach can obtain the consensus in the Sixth Committee of the UNGA.

The SC members agreed, while not giving up the observer status in the UN General Assembly, to conduct strategic review of the approaches the ICAPP can take. SC members were requested to provide input for their assessment of the situation and new recommendations on the new approach.

Hon. Mushahid Hussain, Member and Special Rapporteur of the ICAPP SC, Chairman of the Committee on Defense of the Senate, and Secretary-General of Pakistan Muslim League-Q, will visit UN on August 2017 and have broad consultations.

Signing of the Inter-governmental MOU to Support ICAPP Activities

The inter-governmental MOU to provide support for the activities of the ICAPP, which was first signed on July 26, 2013, has so far been signed by the governments of 11 countries in the region with Mongolia as the recent participant. The signees now include Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Cambodia, China, Iran, Kazakhstan, Mongolia, Nepal, Republic of Korea, Sri Lanka and Vietnam.

In this regard, more governments of the countries in the region, in particular those countries which are represented in the SC, are requested to sign the MOU in the near future.

Attached is the signed copy of MOU with 11 signatures. (See ***Appendix XI)***

Terms of Reference of the Cultural Council of the ICAPP

Following the proposal by Hon. Andrey Klimov, Deputy Chairman of the Committee on International Affairs of the Council of Federation (Senate) and Advisor to the Chairman of the Supreme Council of the United Russia Party, at the ICAPP Special Conference on Regional Economic Cooperation in Vladivostok in May 2015 to establish the ICAPP Cultural Council, SC Members from Cambodia, China, Nepal and Russia prepared the draft Terms of Reference (hereinafter referred to as "ToR")

The ToR of the Cultural Council of the ICAPP, which was prepared by Hon. Hor Namhong, Vice-Chairman of the ICAPP Standing Committee, Deputy Prime Minister of Cambodia and Member of CPP Standing Committee, in consultation with the Members from China, Nepal, and Russia, according to the conclusion of the 27th Meeting of ICAPP Standing Committee in Kuala Lumpur, September 1-2, 2016, was endorsed by the ICAPP Standing Committee to establish the ICAPP Cultural Council.

In accordance with the proposal from Hon. Theo L. Sambuaga, Member of the ICAPP Standing Committee from Indonesia, Hon. José de Venecia, Founding Chairman and Co-chairman of the ICAPP Standing Committee decided to rename the ICAPP Cultural Council as "Asian Cultural Council". The proposal has unanimously been accepted.

ICAPP Mission on the Commune Council Election in Cambodia

It was pointed out that Election Monitoring Mission to Cambodia in June led by Hon. Vijay Jolly was omitted in the Activity Report by the Secretariat. The ICAPP mission was given a great prominence and media attention.

The statement of ICAPP on the Commune Council election in Cambodia is attached as ***Appendix XII.***

Other Issues

Appointment of Deputy Secretary General and Acting Secretary General

It was reported that Hon. Chung Eui-yong, the Secretary General of ICAPP, appointed Hon. Jeon Jae-man, former Ambassador of the Republic of Korea to Thailand, as the Deputy Secretary General of ICAPP as of April 1, 2017. Hon. Jeon Jae-man is the Acting Secretary General as Hon. Chung Eui-yong was appointed as Director for National Security and Chairman of the Standing Committee of the National Security Council (NSC) of the Republic of Korea by President Moon Jae-In.

Enlargement of the Bureau (Three Vice Chairmen elected)

Hon. Jose De Venecia, Jr., Founding Chairman and Co-Chairman of the ICAPP Standing Committee, Former Speaker of the House of Representatives, Special Envoy of the President for Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) and for inter-Cultural Dialogue, and Co-Founder of the *Lakas*-CMD Party, Republic of the Philippines, explained the expansion of the ICAPP since its inception in 2000 in terms of number of members, variety of activities, outreaching activities to other regions beyond Asia.

He further proposed that the Vice Chairman, the late Hon. Sok An, be succeeded by a great Cambodian leader, Excellency Hor Namhong, Deputy Prime Minister and Former Foreign Minister; that Hon. Zheng Xiaosong be Vice Chairman even though the People's Republic of China never asked for a major position at the ICAPP despite its generous contributions: and that Senator Mushahid be Vice Chairman. The three SC Members were elected as Vice Chairmen unanimously and their acceptance speeches were followed.

The Secretariat expressed its position that the decision will be recorded as one of the "Major Understandings and Decisions reached at ICAPP Standing Committee Meetings" (There have been 13 such understandings and decisions since 2006.) and amendment of Charter of the ICAPP will be followed.

Appendixes:

- ***I. The 28th SC Meeting***
  1. ***List of Participants***
  2. ***Annotated Agenda***
- ***II. Updated List of SC Members***
- ***III. Tentative Program of the 29th SC Meeting and Special Conference on the Silk Road***
- ***IV. ICAPP Special Conference on Migration and Refugees***
  1. ***Program***
  2. ***List of Participants***
  3. ***Istanbul Statement on Migration and Refugees***
- ***V. Informal Meeting of the ICAPP Standing Committee***
  1. ***List of Participants***
  2. ***Conclusions***
- ***VI. Report of the ICAPP Mission to the U.N. (October 2016)***
- ***VII. Report of the ICAPP Mission to the European Parliament***
- ***VIII. The 3rd Meeting of the ICAPP Media Forum***
  1. ***Program***
  2. ***List of participants***
  3. ***List of the new Bureau Members***
  4. ***Seoul Statement on the Role of Media***
- ***IX. The 1st Meeting of the Asia Europe Political Forum (AEPF)***
  1. ***Program***

2. ***List of Participants***

X. Letter from COPPPAL

XI. Signed copy of MOU with 11 signatures

XII. Statement of ICAPP on the Commune Council election in Cambodia