FORMER SPEAKER JOSE DE VENECIA, JR.
Founding Chairman and Chairman of Standing Committee, International Conference of Asian Political Parties (ICAPP);
Co-Chairman, International Association of Parliamentarians for Peace (IAPP);
Special Envoy of the President for Intercultural Dialogue and to the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC)

February 2, 2020

The COMMUNIST PARTY OF VIETNAM (CPV)
Hanoi, Socialist Republic of Vietnam

On behalf of the International Conference of Asian Political Parties (ICAPP), representing some 350 ruling, opposition and independent political parties from 52 countries in Asia, we wish to congratulate the Communist Party of Vietnam (CPV) on its 90th Founding Anniversary and recalling thousands of years of Vietnam's heroic history.

We in ICAPP value our partnership with the Communist Party of Vietnam, which sits in our ICAPP Standing Committee, as well as its many great contributions in advancing ICAPP's goal of promoting friendship, understanding and cooperation among countries and peoples in Asia and the international community through the channel and network of political parties.

We are also delighted to say that Vietnam holds a special place in our heart as it is where we had our initial foray in international relations as a 30-year-old Minister and Economic and Press Counselor at the Philippine Embassy in Saigon (now Ho Chi Minh), from 1966 to 1969, during the Vietnam War, with the Philippines providing a Medical and Engineering Battalion, building roads, bridges, markets and hospitals and where we, on our own, advanced a number of modest peace initiatives.

Further, since our launching of the International Conference of Asian Political Parties (ICAPP) in Manila in 2000, we have observed and admired that the Communist Party of Vietnam has played and continues to play a vital and outstanding role in the peace and development of ASEAN and the nations of Asia and its peoples, rising from the tragedies and difficulties of war to become

a great economic and peaceful power today, lifting living standards, advancing agriculture, education, and industries and constantly promoting a culture of peace in our continent and in the global community.

Indeed today we in ICAPP take note of the wholehearted, dynamic and forward-looking leadership of H.E. Nguyen Phu Trong and H.E. Nguyen Xuan Phuc, President and Prime Minister, respectively, of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam.

We in ICAPP also note Vietnam's role with ASEAN partners to build a Code of Conduct in the East Sea in accordance with international law and its now enviable role as Chair of ASEAN 2020 and its non-permanent strategic membership in the coveted U.N. Security Council in 2020-2021.

Congratulations once again to the active and respected Communist Party of Vietnam. We in ICAPP look forward to continue working closely with you in contributing our modest share in advancing the causes of peace, security and development in our Asian region and the global community.

Very truly yours,

JOSE DE VENECIA

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