The 6th Meeting of the ICAPP Media Forum
(Seoul, Republic of Korea, November 17-19, 2023)

Concept Paper

At the 16th Meeting of the ICAPP Standing Committee(SC), held in Seoul in October 2011, the SC Members agreed that each Member nominate up to two journalists from each country to set up the ICAPP Media Forum (hereinafter referred to as "the Forum"). The Forum was to be composed of SC Members and the two journalists from each country which is represented in the SC. The main objectives of the Forum were to promote more interaction between the ICAPP and peoples in the region through wider media coverage of the ICAPP activities, and also to promote communication, interaction and cooperation between the ICAPP and the international media to build an Asian community. It was also agreed that the meetings of the Forum will be held regularly, at least once in two years, preferably back-to-back with either the General Assembly or the SC Meetings.

Meetings of the Media Forum have been held in Seoul (September 2015), Kuala Lumpur (September 2016), Seoul (July 2017), Moscow (October 2018), and Istanbul (November 2022).

At the 1st Meeting of the Forum held in Seoul in September 2015, the participants shared the view that the ICAPP activities need to be more focused on specific issues which are directly related to lives of the peoples in the region, such as poverty alleviation, environmental protection, women's empowerment, etc. They recommended the ICAPP to be more attentive to the need to reduce all forms of conflicts among countries in the region. They also encouraged the ICAPP, which has now become a positive political force representing more than 350 political parties in the region, to reach out to other regions in the world and eventually develop into a global institution encompassing all political parties regardless of differences in ideological orientation.

At the 5th Meeting of the Forum held in Istanbul last November, the participants confirmed that the Forum was a useful platform where political parties and the media in the region could cooperate to promote and strengthen communication and to achieve the ICAPP's goal of building an Asian Community of peace, stability, harmony and prosperity. They also recommended to install more effective institutional mechanisms to encourage more journalists to participate in this forum and agreed to hold the 6th Meeting of the Forum in the near future.

Against this background, considering the increasingly critical role of media in modern society, and after consultation with some SC Members, The ICAPP Secretariat has proposed to host the 6th Meeting of the Forum in Seoul, Republic of Korea during November 17-19, 2023 in close cooperation with the ICAPP Parliamentarians' Union in the National Assembly of the Republic of Korea. The main theme of the meeting will be "Role of the Media in Building an Asian Community and Political Democratization."

In this regard, it is also proposed to revise the Terms of Reference (TOR) of the Forum, which was adopted at the 1st Meeting of the Forum on September 17, 2015, to reflect the current state of activities of the Forum at the 6th Meeting. The "Seoul Statement" that captures the key outcome of the meeting will also be adopted at the closing session. The drafts of the revised TOR and the Seoul statement will be circulated to all SC Members and the participants prior to the meeting.