ICAPP NEWS

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- 41st Meeting of the ICAPP Standing Committee (Bangkok, Kingdom of Thailand, May 28, 2024)

Activities of ICAPP Mission

- ICAPP Observer Mission to BRICS and Partner Countries Forum (Vladivostok, Russian Federation, June 16-19, 2024)

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- Meeting of Hon. Chung Eui-yong with H.E. Hun Manet, (Seoul, Republic of Korea, May 17, 2024)

ICAPP Members

- Thailand begins process to join OECD
- Türkiye-China Exchange Mechanism and Strategic Dialogue
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THE LEADERS OF POLITICAL PARTIES AND BUSINESSES GATHERED FOR 2ND ICAPP BUSINESS COUNCIL

The 2nd Meeting of the ICAPP Business Council (IBC) was held in Bangkok, Thailand during May 27-30, 2024, in conjunction with of "THAIFEX - Anuga Asia," which is one of the world's top three food exhibitions, held in Bangkok during May 28 to June 1, 2024.

The event was participated by over 110 delegates representing 22 political parties and 38 business entities in 20 countries in the region. Several observers from the European Conservatives and Reformists (ECR) Group in the European Parliament and the Secretariat of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (PABSEC) also attended the meeting.

Hon. Dr. Nalinee Taveein, Co-Chairperson of the IBC, and Trade Representative and Advisor to the Prime Minister, Kingdom of Thailand, stressed in her opening remarks the need for the ICAPP to continue to "play a pivotal role in driving food security and tourism promotion for the well-being and prosperity of our region."

The 2nd IBC Meeting was divided into two plenary sessions which dealt with two different topics of "food security" and "tourism promotion" respectively.

On the first topic, participants underscored the importance of "food security," particularly in the context of current geopolitical tensions, recent challenges posed by climate change, and economic aftershocks from the pandemic, and agreed to work together to enable sustainable development of food industry and stable supply of nutritious food for successive generations through technical innovation and cooperation, and strengthening of national and global supply chain.

On the topic of "tourism promotion," the participants acknowledged that tourism remained as one of the main engines, stimulating our economies and serving as a conduit to sustainable development and cultural connectivity in the region, and agreed to the need for continued close coordination to map out viable tourism strategies which would be beneficial to both communities and the environment, affordable and inclusive.

The event highlighted the collaborative spirit among leaders of political parties and business communities in the region and reconfirmed their commitment to addressing common challenges through shared experiences and coordinated efforts.

The Bangkok Statement which reflected the results of the meeting was unanimously adopted at the closing session.

The 41st Meeting of the ICAPP Standing Committee Meeting

The 41st Meeting of the ICAPP Standing Committee (SC) took place at the Hilton Grande Asoke Hotel in Bangkok, Thailand, on May 28, 2024, on the occasion of the 2nd IBC Meeting.

The SC Members welcomed Hon. Suos Yara of the Cambodian People's Party (CPP) as the new SC Member, replacing Hon. Khuon Sudary. It was also agreed that he would assume the Vice Chairmanship of the SC which was held by the representative of the CPP.

Following decisions were taken at the meeting:

- The 12th General Assembly (GA) will be hosted by the Cambodian People's Party in Phnom Penh during November 21-24, 2024. The 42nd SC Meeting, 7th Meeting of the ICAPP Media Forum and 3rd Meeting of the Asian Cultural Council (ACC) will also be held on the sidelines of the 12th GA,
- The 8th Meeting of the ICAPP Women's Wing will be hosted by the Mongolian People's Party (MPP) in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia in August 2024. (The dates of the meeting was later confirmed during August 17-20, 2024), and
- The 6th Meeting of the Asia-Europe Political Forum (AEPF) will be held in one of the European capitals in late 2024 or early 2025.

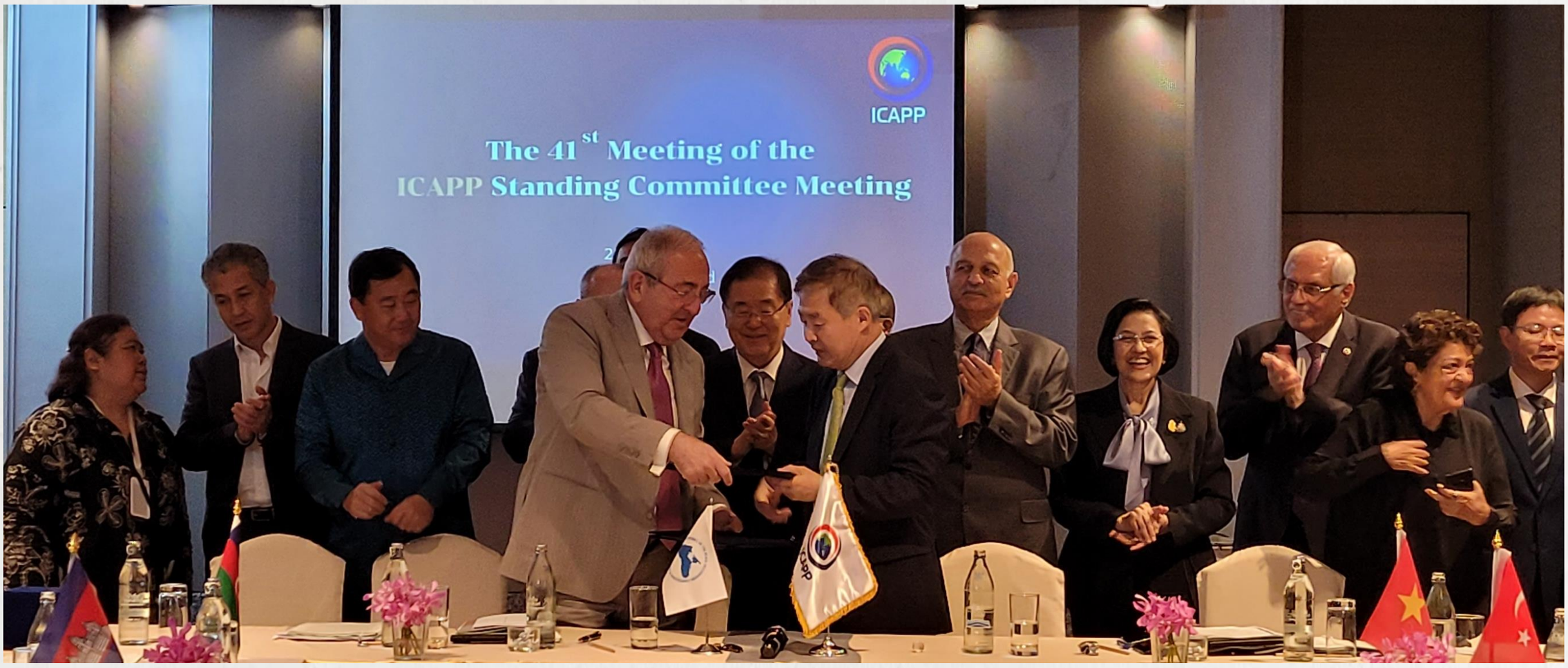
The SC Members also reviewed the following ICAPP activities since the 40th SC Meeting:

- The 6th Meeting of the ICAPP Media Forum in November 2023,
- ICAPP Special Workshop in December, 2023,
- ICAPP Observer Mission to Presidential election in Azerbaijan in February 2024,
- The 7th Meeting of ICAPP Youth Wing in February 2024,
- ICAPP Mission to the European Parliament in March 2024,
- Conclusion of MOU between the ICAPP and Non-Aligned Movement Parliamentary Network (NAM PN) in March 2024, and
- ICAPP Mission to the 3rd NAM PN Conference in March 2024.

The SC Members also agreed to recommend to the 12th GA in November to consider amending the ICAPP Charter to increase the number of countries represented in the SC from currently 23 to 25.

They also agreed to the proposal to conclude MOUs with the ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly (AIPA) and the International Parliament for Tolerance and Peace (IPTP) to exchange observers to each other's meetings to expand the scope and activities of the ICAPP, and requested the Secretariat to contact these organizations with a view to concluding MOUs in the near future. The AIPA, established in 1977, represents the parliaments of the ten ASEAN member states, and, the IPTP, established in 2018 to foster global parliamentary cooperation for peace, represents parliaments in over 100 countries.

ICAPP and PABSEC Sign MOU for Exchange of Observers



During the 41st SC Meeting, it was agreed to conclude an MOU with the Secretariat of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (PABSEC) on exchange of observers, and Hon. Kwon Hee-seog, Secretary General of the ICAPP, and Hon. Asaf Hajiyev, Secretary General of the PBSEC signed and exchanged the MOU in the presence of the SC Members.

The PABSEC, established in 1993, represents parliaments in 13 member states from the Black Sea region, including Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bulgaria, Georgia, Greece, Moldova, North Macedonia, Romania, Russia, Serbia, Türkiye, and Ukraine. It also includes observer states such as Belarus, Egypt, Israel, France, Germany, and the Slovak Republic.

The MOU aims to promote peace and prosperity in the area by fostering greater cooperation and coordination between the two organizations, contributing to regional stability and development, and to enhance cooperation by inviting representatives from each organization to participate in relevant meetings and activities, promoting mutual understanding among their member states. It was also agreed to respect each other's rules and procedures and not to create legally binding obligations. The agreement is set for a five-year term, with automatic extensions unless it is terminated with prior notice by one party.

ICAPP Chairman Meets with CPP Leaders in Seoul

Hon. Chung Eui-yong had a meeting with H.E. Hun Manet, Prime Minister and Vice Chairman of the Cambodian People's Party(CPP), on May 17, 2024 during his official visit to Seoul, Republic of Korea, and continued to discuss how to prepare for the successful General Assembly of the ICAPP to be held in Phnom Penh in November 2024.

They also exchanged views on how to further promote bilateral cooperative and friendly relations between Cambodia and the Republic of Korea.

- Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Manet Meets ICAPP SC Chairperson Hon. Chung Eui-yong on May 17, 2024 in Lotte Hotel in Seoul, Republic of Korea.

ICAPP Observers Participate in BRICS and Partner Countries Forum

Members of the ICAPP Standing Committee participated in the "International Inter-Party BRICS and Partner Countries Forum" held during June 16 to19, 2024, in Vladivostok, Russia. The Forum was hosted by the BRICS Presidency of the Russian Federation and the United Russia Party, and was attended by representatives of political parties from 28 countries from Asia, Europe, North and South America and Africa. H.E. Dmitry Medvedev, Chairman of the United Russia Party and former President of Russia, delivered a keynote speech at the opening ceremony.

The ICAPP delegation included Hon. Chung Eui-yong, Chairman of the ICAPP SC; Hon. Mushahid Hussain Sayed, Co-Chairman and Special Rapporteur; Hon. Suos Yara, Vice Chairman; and Hon. Dr. Nalinee Taveesin, Member of the SC.

Hon. Chung Eui-yong and Hon. Suos Yara spoke on the topic of “BRICS and Partner countries as an efficient mechanism of development ties,” while Hon. Mushahid Hussain Sayed and Hon. Dr. Nalinee Taveesin spoke on the topic “Invisible and equal security as key principles for building genuine and lasting international peace.”

On the sidelines of the forum, ICAPP representatives had separate meetings with representatives of other political parties and discussed ways of cooperation between the ICAPP and their parties. In particular, Hon. Chung Eui-yong had meetings with leaders of ANC (African National Congress) in South Africa and ZANU-PF (Zimbabwe African National Union – Patriotic Front) in Zimbabwe, and discussed ways to establish an organization of African political parties, through coordination and cooperation with the “Liberation Movement,” a coalition of major parties in six countries in southern Africa.

Türkiye-China Held Exchange Mechanism and Strategic Dialogue in Beijing

On June 26th, the Communist Party of China (CPC) and the Justice and Development Party (AK Parti) of Türkiye held a meeting on Exchange Mechanism and Strategic Dialogue between the two ruling parties. China was represented by Hon. Liu Jianchao, Minister of the International Department of the CPC, and Türkiye by Hon. Efkan Ala, Deputy Chairman of the AK Parti.. The dialogue focused on enhancing party governance and exploring modernization paths, with both sides agreeing to bolster strategic cooperation amidst shifts in global geopolitics.

Thailand's Step Towards OECD Membership

Thailand has officially embarked on the process of joining the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), a significant move aimed at integrating the country into the global economic framework.

The OECD Council has unanimously agreed to initiate accession discussions with Thailand, marking a crucial milestone in the country's journey towards membership. This decision reflects Thailand's commitment to adhering to the high standards of economic governance, transparency, and sustainable development that the OECD promotes

The Thai government views OECD membership as an opportunity to enhance its economic competitiveness, attract foreign investment, and foster innovation. By joining the OECD, Thailand aims to leverage international best practices to drive sustainable growth and improve the quality of life for its citizens.

This move also signals Thailand's broader ambition to play a more active role in the global economic community. As the country progresses through the accession process, it will engage in rigorous evaluations and peer reviews, demonstrating its readiness to meet the OECD's stringent criteria.

In this regard, Hon. Chung Eui-yong, Chairman of the ICAPP Standing Committee, welcomed the news and said "Thailand well deserves a membership in the organization with its robust economy and stable and strong democracy," in his remarks at the closing session of the 2nd IBC Meeting. on May 28th.

Results of National Elections in the Region

Senate Elections in Pakistan (April 02)

- Government Alliance (54/85)
  - PPP (Pakistan People's Party), (24/ 85)
  - PML(N) (Pakistan Muslim League (Nawaz)), (19/85)
  - Others (11/85)
- Opposition Alliance (30/85)
  - PTI (17/85) (Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf)
  - JUI-F (3/85) (Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam Pakistan)
  - Others (10/85)

Parliamentary Elections in the Republic of Korea (April 10)

- Democratic Party (175/300)
- People Power Party (108/300)
- Rebuilding Korea Party (12/300)
- New Reform Party (3/300)
- New Future Party (1/300)

Parliamentary Elections in Maldives (April 21)

- People's National Congress (66/93)
- Maldivian Democratic Party (12/93)
- Maldives Development Alliance (2/93)
- Jumhooree Party (Republican Party) (1/93)
- Maldives National Party (1/93)

Parliamentary Elections in Iran (March 01 – May 10)

- Principlists (162/290)
- Reformists (40/290)
- Non-affiliated (83/290)
- Minorities (5/290)

Parliamentary Elections in Solomon Island (April 17)

- Ownership, Unity and Responsibility Party (15/50)
- Solomon Islands Democratic Party (11/50)
- Solomon Islands United Party (6/50)
- People First Party (3/50)
- Kadere Party (1/50)
- Solomon Islands Party of Rural Advancement (SIPRA) (1/50)
- Umi for Change Party (1/50)

Parliamentary Elections in India (April 19 – June 01)

- Bharatiya Janata Party (Indian People's Party or BJP) (240/545)
- Indian National Congress (99/545)
- Samajwadi Party (37/545)
- All India Trinamool Congress (29/545)
- Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (22/545)
- Biju Janata Dal (12/545)

Parliamentary Election in Mongolia (June 28)

- Mongolian People's Party (68/126)
- Democratic Party (42/126)
- HUN Party (8/126)
- National Coalition (4/126)
- Civil Will-Green Party (4/126)

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- Hon. Chung Eui-youg, Chairperson of the ICAPP Standing Committee, former Minister of Foreign Affairs, former Director of the Office of National Security, and former Chairman of Foreign Relations Committee of the Minjoo (Democratic) Party, Republic of Korea

- Hon. Mushahid Hussain Sayed, Co-Chairperson and Special Rapporteur of the ICAPP Standing Committee, and Chairperson of the Senate Committee on Defense, Pakistan Muslim League (*N*) (PML-*N*), Islamic Republic of Pakistan

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