Eulogy by Hon. Chung Eui-yong, Chairman of the ICAPP Standing Committee and former Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republci of Korea, at the Memorial and Necrological Service of H.E. Jose de Venecia, Jr. in the House of Representatives of the Philippines on February 16, 2026

Today, we stand together in profound sorrow. A star, a great star, has fallen from our horizon.

I extend my deepest condolences on the passing of H.E. Jose de Venecia, Jr., former Speaker of this House and Founding Chairman of the ICAPP, International Conference of Asian Political Parties.

Speaker de Venecia, or Chairman de Venecia as known among ICAPP family, was a towering statesman and a leader of rare wisdom and steadfast resolve. He was a guiding light whose vision, courage, conviction and tireless dedication shaped and steadied our path toward better life, advanced peace and shared prosperity. Yet his vision extended far beyond national borders.

I spent the last quarter century closely working with him—under his vision and guidance—to institutionalize ICAPP. That period has been the most honorable and memorable, and fulfilling and rewarding chapter of my public life. He was always several steps ahead of me, brimming with fresh ideas and boundless ambition.

With his passing, the Philippines has lost not only a great statesman, but also a true patriot.

With his passing, ICAPP has lost not only the visionary who gave the institution its very life, but also the mentor it could always rely on.

When ICAPP was only an idea — a hope for dialogue, cooperation, and understanding among political leaders with different backgrounds — it was his vision that transformed aspiration into reality.

I was one of dinner guests at his residence in the evening of February 5, 2008, during a time of grave political crisis for him. After dinner, people kept coming in and out. Telephone calls kept pouring in. I could sense something very serious was happening. I attempted to excuse myself, but JDV gently insisted that I stay on.

With remarkable calm he explained and kept updating me about what had been developing in Philippine politics. What remains etched in my memory are the

composure, dignity and grace he had demonstrated throughout that evening. I saw a true statesman then.

JDV believed that political parties, diverse in history and ideology, could still find common ground in the pursuit of peace, stability, and shared progress. That belief became the foundation upon which ICAPP was built.

His leadership was devoted to service beyond self, to principle above politics, and to the enduring dignity of the people he served.

JDV led not with loudness, but with steadiness. Not with division, but with inclusion. Through changing political landscapes and global uncertainties, he remained constant — patient in negotiation, firm in principle, and unwavering in his commitment to dialogue across borders and ideologies.

He carried ICAPP forward with quiet determination. He nurtured relationships among political leaders and parties across Asia and beyond. He strengthened trust where there was hesitation. He built bridges where there were gaps. When challenges arose, he taught us that patience and persistence are the true instruments to peace and reconciliation. And in doing so, he created a platform that will continue to serve generations to come.

Today, ICAPP stands as a living testament to his vision. Every bridge we help build among political parties across Asia and beyond carries his imprint. His legacy is not only in the conferences convened or the agreements facilitated. It lives in the spirit of cooperation he cultivated. It lives in the friendships forged under the ICAPP banner. It lives in the enduring belief that dialogue is stronger than discord. And it will continue to illuminate our course.

Today, we grieve. But we also give thanks — for his leadership, for his wisdom, for his decades of service. We honor a life dedicated not to personal ambition, but to collective progress. We bow our heads in respect, and in solemn remembrance.

Though his presence will be deeply missed, the institution he built stands as his lasting monument. The principles he championed will remain our compass. And the light he kindled will continue to guide ICAPP forward.

May we carry his vision with humility. May we uphold his values with integrity. And may we honor his memory not only in words, but in the continued strengthening of the institution he so compassionately built and led.

On behalf of the ICAPP and its member parties, I convey our heartfelt sympathies to his beloved family, especially Madam Gina de Venecia, our close friend, and who herself played an indispensable role in advancing JDV's ideals in ICAPP, and the people and government of the Philippines, and to all who mourn this immense loss.

May his noble soul rest in eternal peace.