Conclusions of the 19th Meeting of the Standing Committee of the International Conference of Asian Political Parties
(Hanoi, Vietnam, April 24-26, 2013)

The 19th 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 the Sheraton Hotel in Hanoi, Vietnam, under the auspices of the Communist Party of Vietnam (hereinafter referred to as "the CPV"), during April 24-26, 2013.

The list of program, participants, and annotated agenda are attached as ***Appendixes I, II and III***.

The Meeting was convened and chaired by Hon. Jose de Venecia, Jr., Founding Chairman and Co-Chairman of the ICAPP Standing Committee, and Hon. Chung Eui-yong, Co-Chairman of the Standing Committee and Secretary General of the ICAPP.

Hon. Hoang Binh Quan, Chairman of the Commission for External Relations, Central Committee of the CPV, attended and addressed the opening session of the Meeting. The opening statements of Chairman Quan and Chairman de Venecia are attached as ***Appendixes IV and V***.

Courtesy Call on General Secretary of the CPV

After the Meeting, the heads of delegations of all the participating political parties and observers in the Meeting paid a courtesy call on His Excellency Nguyen Phu Trong, General Secretary of the CPV, at the State Hall of the Headquarters of the CPV.

The General Secretary warmly welcomed the participants and congratulated the SC Members on the successful conclusion of the Meeting. He further said that the CPV would continue to fully support the ICAPP's playing a key role in resolving differences and conflicts in the region under the principles of independence, sovereignty and peaceful settlement. He also highly appreciated the role of the SC in the development of the ICAPP in depth and width, and expressed his hope that the initiatives launched at the 19th Meeting of the SC would be fully implemented as agreed upon.

The General Secretary also explained about the results of the successful conclusion of the 11th Congress of the CPV which was recently convened. He further introduced the goal of Vietnam to become a newly industrialized nation by Year 2020 through policies focused on socialist market economy and human resources development of high quality. He also reaffirmed that Vietnam would continue its foreign policies based on peace, friendship and cooperation.

New Members of the Standing Committee

As the first business of the Meeting, the Members welcomed the representatives of the following political parties as new Members.
- Bangladesh *Awami* League of Bangladesh, represented by Hon. Abdul Matin Khasru,

Secretary for Legal Affairs of the Central Committee (absent)
- Future Movement Party of Lebanon, represented by Hon. Fadi Fawaz, Advisor for Development Affairs to the Chairman
- Democratic Party of Mongolia (absent)
- Union Solidarity and Development of Myanmar, represented by Hon. Dr. Mya Oo, Member of the Central Executive Committee
- *Pheu Thai* Party of Thailand, represented by Hon. Dr. Nalinee Taveseen, Trade Representative in the Office of Prime Minister

The Members also welcomed the representatives of the following political parties as new Alternate Members.
- *Jatiya* Party of Bangladesh, represented by Hon. Hussain Muhammad Ershad, President
- Free Patriotic Movement Party of Lebanon (absent)
- Mongolian People's Party of Mongolia, represented by Hon. Chinbat Khishigt, Head of International Relations
- National League for Democracy of Myanmar (absent)
- Democrat Party of Thailand, represented by Hon. Prakob Chirakiti, Member of Parliament, on behalf of Hon. Chamni Sakdiset, Deputy Party Leader

The Members also welcomed the new Members who have been recently appointed to replace the former Members of their respective political parties as follows.
- Hon. Bauyrzhan Baibek, First Deputy Chairman of the People's Democratic Party "Nur Otan" of Kazakhstan, replacing Hon. Bakytzhan A. Sagintayev
- Hon. Tatsuya Ito, Director General of the International bureau of the Liberal Democratic Party of Japan, replacing Hon. Yasufumi Tanahashi
- Hon. Yuji Fujimoto, Director General of the International Department of the Democratic Party of Japan, replacing Hon. Tsuyoshi Yamaguchi

Future Meetings of the SC

Hon. Yuksel Ozden, Member of Parliament and Chairman of the Turkish Delegation to the APA, representing the Justice and Development Party (*AK Parti*) of Turkey, confirmed the earlier commitment of the *AK Parti* to host the 20th Meeting of the SC in Turkey in mid to late November 2013. He reported that four major cities in Turkey are being considered for possible venues for the meeting, i.e. Ankara, Istanbul, Antalya and Mugla. The exact time and venue would be informed in due course through the Secretariat.

In this regard, the Members, representing the political parties that haven't yet hosted SC meetings, were requested to make their offers to host future SC meetings.

The SC Members also agreed to have a special meeting of the SC, if necessary, on the sideline of the ICAPP Special Conference to be held in Xi'an, China during May 28-31, 2013.

Results of the 1st Meeting of the ICAPP Women's Wing

Hon. Dr. Park In-sook, Co-Chairperson of the ICAPP Women's Wing, made a report on the results of the 1st Meeting of the ICAPP Women's Wing which was held in Baku, Azerbaijan during April 4-6, 2013. The meeting was attended by representatives of 29 political parties from 18 countries in Asia, and observers from two political parties in Africa and Latin America, and six woman organizations in Asia.

The meeting was conducted under the three themes: Promotion of Women's Rights, Global and Regional Experiences; Women's Role in Sustainable Development of Societies; and Women's Role in Promoting Global and Regional Integration.

In addition, the participants elected the Bureau of the ICAPP Women's Wing, which is composed of two Co-Chairs and five Vice-Chairs.

The Baku Statement on Women in Asia was adopted at the end of the meeting. The statement, together with its program, list of participants and the list of the bureau, are attached as ***Appendixes VI 1-4.***

At the subsequent meeting of the Bureau of the Women's Wing, held on April 6 following the conclusion of plenary sessions, it was decided to hold the 2nd Meeting of the ICAPP Women's Wing in Tehran, Iran in April 2014 under the auspice of the Islamic *Motalefeh* Party of the Islamic Republic of Iran. Representatives of the ICAPP Women's Wing will make further report on the results of the meeting.

The SC Members welcomed with great appreciation the successful launching of the ICAPP Women's Wing. They further recommended the Women's Wing to invite leading woman leaders in the region as Advisors of the ICAPP Women's Wing, including H.E. Park Geun-hye, President of the Republic of Korea, H.E. Yingluck Shinawatra, Prime Minister of Thailand, Hon. Sonia Gandhi, Chairperson of the Indian National Congress, and Hon. Aung San Suu Kyi, Chairperson of the National League for Democracy of Myanmar.

Hon. Hassan Ghafouri Fard, Former Vice President of Iran and Member of the Central Committee of the Islamic *Motalefeh* Party of the Islamic Republic of Iran, confirmed his party's commitment to host the 2nd Meeting of the ICAPP Women's Wing in Iran in April 2014.

ICAPP Special Conference on "Promote Green Development and Build a Beautiful Asia Together"

Hon. Yang Yanyi, Assistant Minister of the International Department, Central Committee of the Communist Party of China(CPC), confirmed her party's previous offer to host the ICAPP Special Conference on "Promote Green Development and Build a Beautiful Asia Together" in Xi'an, Capital City of Shaanxi Province of China, during May 28-31, 2013.

Assistant Minister Yang presented the concept paper, which is attached as ***Appendix VII***, on the special conference and said that Xi'an, which is located in the central northeast region of China, has been a cultural, industrial and educational center of China as one of its ancient capital cities. She also stressed the significance of convening the conference at such a historic site which was once the eastern platform of the Silk Road. She further said that the conference will provide a timely forum for Asian political leaders to exchange and share their thoughts on green and sustainable development in Asia.

She further reported that a field trip to a relevant site near Xi'an will be organized on May 29, which will be followed by two-day conference on May 30 and 31, and requested full support of the SC Members for the success of the conference. The detailed program of the conference will be provided in due course.

The SC Members welcomed with great appreciation the initiative of the CPC to host the special conference on one of the most serious challenges faced by many countries in the region. They hoped that the special conference would be an occasion to raise the public awareness on the related issues and should be well attended. They also stressed that the conference should be closely coordinated with similar activities of the United Nations and requested the host to invite representatives of the relevant international organizations like the United Nations to the conference.

The 2nd Meeting of the ICAPP Youth Wing

Hon. Dr. Asaf Hajiyev, Head of International Department of the *Yeni* (New) Azerbaijan Party(YAP), confirmed his party's earlier commitment to host the 2nd Meeting of the ICAPP Youth Wing in Azerbaijan in mid August 2014. The YAP originally proposed to convene the meeting during July 22-25, 2013. But at the request of the ICAPP Youth Wing, he agreed to postpone the meeting to the second week of August. The exact dates will be informed in due course after making necessary logistic arrangements. (Later, Dr. Hajiyev confirmed the postponement of the meeting to August 13-16, 2013)

Dr. Hajiyev said that, since Baku is located at the crossroads between Asia and Europe, the meeting in Baku will provide a unique opportunity for ICAPP youth delegates to not only share their views among themselves on fundamental values, such as democracy, human rights and economic development, but also look at them from European perspective as well.

Dr. Hajiyev further reported that the program of the meeting would include not only plenary sessions for discussion but also other cultural and outdoor events specially prepared for young participants. The tentative program of the meeting is attached as ***Appendix VIII***. He also said that the YAP expects to have around 150 to 200 youth delegates from the region and requested the SC Members to confirm participation of their delegates in time for making logistic arrangements, including issuing entry visas.

In this regard, various ranges of age, from 20 to 45, have been suggested by some of the SC Members as appropriate for delegates to participate in the activities of the ICAPP Youth Wing. Some of the SC Members were also of the view that imposing a certain age range might be intruding into the prerogatives of individual political parties.

Hon. Sous Yara, Secretary General of the ICAPP Youth Wing, reported that the Youth Wing is still in the process of establishing its own structure, including writing its bylaws. In this regard, the SC Members noted that the ICAPP Youth Wing was an autonomous group within the ICAPP. However, its activities and terms of reference should be consistent with the principles and objectives of the ICAPP as stipulated in its Charter and other understandings reached at the SC meetings..

ICAPP Special Conference on Women's Leadership and Empowerment

Hon. Hwang Jin-ha, Member of the National Assembly and President of the ICAPP Parliamentarians' Union in the Korean National Assembly, representing the *Saenuri* (New Frontier) Party of the Republic of Korea, confirmed that the ICAPP Special Conference on "Women's Leadership and Empowerment" would be held in Seoul during September 12-14, 2013. The special conference will be co-hosted by the governing *Saenuri* Party and the

opposition Democratic United Party.

Hon. Hwang Jin-ha said that, in continuation of the 1st Meeting of the ICAPP Women's Wing, this special conference will provide another platform to share thoughts and experiences in improving women's status in our societies, especially in promoting their political leadership and social empowerment. He said that the conference will be divided into three plenary sessions which would deal with three separate sub-themes of the conference: Women's Leadership in Politics, Women's Participation in Economy, and Women's Role in Peace-Building. The tentative program is attached as ***Appendix IX.***

In response to some of the SC Members, Hon. Hwang Jin-ha specified that the invitation to the conference is not restricted to woman leaders but open to all political leaders, men and women, who are in responsible or influential decision-making positions on policies relating to women issues. The formal invitation along with other details of the special conference will be circulated among the members in due course.

Establishment of the Asian-Latin American Business Council

The SC Members were reminded that, at the 3rd Joint Session between the ICAPP Standing Committee and the COPPPAL Coordinating Body which was held in Mexico City during October 13-14, 2012, it was agreed to establish the Asian-Latin American Business Council in order to help business communities of the two continents form closer linkage and explore potential ways and areas of business promotion and further expand economic cooperation in close coordination with leaders of the political parties. They were also reminded of the agreement to nominate two business leaders from each country as candidates for the Business Council. In this regard, the Secretariat reported that only two members, i.e. of Nepal and Pakistan, have so far nominated their candidates and requested other SC Members to do so as soon as possible. The SC Members agreed to submit the list of their candidates by November 1, 2013. The list of candidates for the Business Council is attached as ***Appendix X***.

In this regard, Hon. Gustavo Caravajal Moreno, Deputy Chairman of the COPPPAL and Former President of the Institutional Revolutionary Party(PRI) of Mexico, confirmed that the COPPPAL is willing to convene the first meeting of the Business Council in Mexico City or other venue in Latin America during the early part of 2014.

The 4th Joint Session between the ICAPP and the COPPPAL

It was tentatively agreed to hold the 4th Joint Session between the ICAPP Standing Committee and the COPPPAL Coordinating Body on the sideline of the 20th Meeting of the ICAPP Standing Committee to be held in Turkey in mid to late November 2013. Other details of the joint session, including its topics, will be further discussed between the Secretariats of the ICAPP and the COPPPAL and will be informed to the SC Members in due course.

The 1st Conference of the Council of African Political Parties (CAPP)

Hon. Dr. Eisa Bashery Mohamed, Member of the Higher Committee and Head of the Asian Affairs Secretariat of the National Congress Party, and Minister of Science and Communication of the Republic of the Sudan, who attended the Meeting as an observer,

reported that the 1st Conference of the Council of African Political Parties (CAPP) would be held in Khartoum during April 27-28, 2013 on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the African Union under the theme of "Together to Enhance Unity and Renaissance of the African Continent." The program of the conference is attached as ***Appendix XI***.

Dr. Eisa Bashery Mohamed said that ninety-nine (99) political parties in fifty-three (53) countries in Africa have been invited to participate in the historic conference, and about thirty-five (35) political parties have so far confirmed their participation. They also invited representatives of the ICAPP, COPPPAL and the African Union to attend the conference as observers.

Dr. Eisa Bashery Mohamed also thanked the Members for their strong support to the National Congress Party of Sudan for organizing and convening the 1st Conference of the CAPP. He also said that his party envisions the CAPP to play a leading role in promoting democracy and peace in Africa, increasing the well-being of the African people, fighting against the challenges faced by the continent, and promoting collective development and cooperation among African countries.

In this regard, Co-Chairmen of the ICAPP SC, Hon. Jose de Venecia and Hon. Chung Eui-yong, expressed their gratitude to the invitations extended to them, but expressed their regret that, due to its coincidence with the ICAPP Standing Committee meeting, they were not able to attend the historic meeting. However, the SC Members agreed to request Hon. Ai Ping, Vice Minister of the International Department of the Central Committee, Communist Party of China, and a Member of the ICAPP Standing Committee, who is planning to attend the conference on behalf of his party, to convey the messages of ICAPP's strong support for the activities of the CAPP and its willingness to closely cooperate with the CAPP.

ICAPP's bid for observer status in the U.N. General Assembly

The Secretariat made the report on the state of ICAPP's efforts to obtain observer status in the U.N. General Assembly (UNGA). ICAPP's application for observer status was considered for the second time at the meeting of the Sixth Committee of the 67th session of the UNGA on October 16, 2012, following the first consideration at the same Committee of the 66th session of the UNGA on October 3, 2011. The governments of seven countries, which are represented in the ICAPP Standing Committee, co-sponsored the draft resolution to grant observer status to the ICAPP: Cambodia, Japan, Korea, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, and Vietnam.

The consensus was, however, not reached on the item due to reservations expressed by four delegations from other regions on the ground that the ICAPP does not meet the criteria laid out in the UNGA's decision of December 9, 1994 and of December 17, 1999 that "granting observer status will be confined to States and inter-governmental organizations." Cosponsors of the draft resolution responded that there had been exceptions to the criteria since 1999 and four non inter-governmental organizations have been granted observer status, including Global Fund for AIDS and the Inter-Parliamentarian Union. They also pointed out, among others, that the unique nature of the ICAPP which represents both ruling and opposition political parties should also be given special consideration.

In this regard, the Secretariat proposed to consider recommending to the respective governments of the countries represented in the ICAPP Standing Committee to conclude a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) in which the participating governments will confirm their commitment to support the activities of the ICAPP. The MOU is proposed to be open to all the governments in Asia which are willing to join as signatories. The MOU will not create any legally binding obligations to the signatories. The draft MOU is attached as ***Appendix XII.***

It is expected that such an MOU may give a more formal and international status to the ICAPP as H.E. Ban Ki-moon, U.N. Secretary General, advised when he met with the ICAPP Mission at U.N. Headquarters on October 11, 2012. Secretary General Ban advised to find a way for the ICAPP to claim a more formal and international status supported by governments in the region in order to facilitate the process of obtaining observer status in the U.N. General Assembly.

The SC Members agreed to continue to render their full support for the ICAPP's bid for the U.N. observer status in the UNGA and to recommend their respective governments to sign the proposed MOU. They also agreed to follow up on this issue at the special meeting of the SC to be held on the sideline of the ICAPP Special Conference in Xi'an, China during May 28-31, 2013.

Other Issues

Establishment of Global Political Parties Ecological Alliance (GPPEA)

The SC Members agreed to the establishment of "Global Political Parties Ecological Alliance" (GPPEA), as proposed by Hon. Jose de Venecia, Jr., Founding Chairman and Co-Chairman of the Standing Committee, as a joint united effort among the ICAPP, the COPPPAL, the CAPDI (Centrist Asia Pacific Democrats International) and the IESCO (International Eco-Safety Cooperation Organization) in the fight against climate change and environmental degradation. They also requested the IESCO, with its head offices in Beijing and New York, to present its recommendations on various steps that would be needed to establish the GPPEA.

In doing so, the SC Members recalled that the IESCO had been designated as the ICAPP's partner in fight against climate change at the 7th General Assembly of the ICAPP held in Baku during November 21-24, 2012. Further at the joint meeting between the ICAPP and the COPPPAL, held in Mexico City during October 13-14, 2012, the IESCO was similarly designated by the COPPPAL.

It was also noted that, at the General Assembly of the CAPDI, held in Phnom Penh on December 1, 2010, the IESCO was designated as its Climate Change Committee. The IESCO, had earlier been granted the status of NGO consultative body by the U.N. Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC).

In view of the strong partnership in fight against climate change among the ICAPP, the COPPPAL, the CAPDI and the IESCO, it has been recently suggested to establish the GPPEA so that the U.N. and other relevant international organizations can cooperate and coordinate more expeditiously with one united global organization of political parties and civil society organizations in dealing with the worsening global pollution and the resulting

destruction caused by tidal waves, storms, floods, drought, earthquakes and landslides in various regions, nations, and communities in many parts of the world.

The 2nd General Assembly of the Centrist Asia Pacific Democrats International (CAPDI)

Hon. Jose de Venecia, Jr. Founding Chairman and Co-chairman of the Standing Committee, reminded the SC Members that the 2nd General Assembly of the CAPDI would be held in Makassar, Indonesia during May 19-21, 2013 under the theme of "Mobilizing Governments, Political Parties, and Civil Societies to Promote Peace and Reconciliation and to Fight Climate Change in Asia."

Chairman de Venecia also reminded the SC Members that they were all invited to participate in the meeting and requested to confirm their participation as soon as possible with the CAPDI Secretariat.

Situation on the Korean Peninsula

Under the item of other issues of the agenda, Hon. Hwang Jin-ha, Member of the National Assembly and President of the ICAPP Parliamentarians' Union in the Korean National Assembly, representing the *Saenuri* (New Frontier) Party of the Republic of Korea, made a brief report on the current situation of the Korean Peninsula.

He said that, despite various efforts by the international community, tensions on the Korean peninsula have been continuously heightened since the long-range missile test last December and the third nuclear test last February by North Korea. The Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) continues to defy U.N. Security Council Resolutions of 2087 and 2094 which have been adopted unanimously, and rejected to resume dialogue with the Republic of Korea (ROK) and to renounce its nuclear weapons and ballistic missiles development programs.

Mr. Hwang further reported that the DPRK recently withdrew all of its workers from Gaesung Industrial Complex, which has been the key economic cooperation project between the two Koreas, and requested all peace-loving countries in the region to support the efforts of the ROK and its friendly countries to build peace and trust on the Korean peninsula and to encourage the DPRK to get out of its self-inflicted isolation.

Situation in Syria

Hon. Fadi Fawaz, Advisor for Development Affairs to the Chairman of Future Movement Party of Lebanon, briefly expressed the deep concerns on the recent developments in the Syrian crisis. He particularly drew attention of the SC Members to the seriousness of growing number of Syrian refugees in Lebanon.

In this regard, he underlined the importance of economic cooperation in building peace and proposed that the ICAPP would consider launching an economic development platform to share experiences of economic development among its members and provide possible assistance to developing countries.

Schedules of Major Elections in Countries represented in the SC

The SC Members noted that this year would be a politically very active one for many

countries which are represented in the ICAPP SC.

General elections will be held in Malaysia on May 5, in Pakistan on May 11, in the Philippines on May 13, in Cambodia on July 28, and in Australia on September 14. Presidential elections will also be held in Iran on June 14, in Mongolia on June 26, and in Azerbaijan on October 16. Elections for the House of Councilors will also be held in Japan during July.

Appendixes:

I. Program of the Meeting
II. List of Participants in the Meeting
III. Annotated Agenda for the Meeting
IV. Opening Statement of Chairman Hoang Binh Quan
V. Opening Statement of Chairman Jose de Venecia
VI. 1. Baku Statement on Women in Asia
2. Program of the 1st Meeting of the ICAPP Women's Wing
3. List of Participants in the 1st Meeting of the ICAPP Women's Wing
4. List of the Bureau of the ICAPP Women's Wing
VII. Concept Paper of the ICAPP Special Conference in Xi'an, China
VIII. Tentative Program of the 2nd Meeting of the ICAPP Youth Wing
IX. Tentative Program of the ICAPP Special Conference in Seoul, Korea
X. List of Candidates for Asian-Latin American Business Council
XI. Program of the 1st Conference of the Council of African Political Parties
XII. Draft Memorandum of Understanding