Conclusions of the 16th Meeting of the Standing Committee of the International Conference of Asian Political Parties (ICAPP)
(Seoul, Republic of Korea, October 27-30, 2011)

The 16th 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 Shilla Hotel in Seoul, under the auspices of the Grand National Party (hereinafter referred to as "the GNP") in cooperation of the Democratic Party of the Republic of Korea, during October 27-30, 2011.

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.

Prior to opening of the Meeting on October 28, H.E. Kim Sung-hwan, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade of the Republic of Korea, paid a call and met with the participants in the Meeting.

The SC Members also paid a courtesy call on H.E. Kim Hwang-sik, Prime Minister of the Republic of Korea, on October 28. At the meeting, Prime Minister Kim congratulated the ICAPP on its progress and expansion. In response, Co-Chairman de Venecia, on behalf of the ICAPP, congratulated the Republic of Korea on its rise as an industrial democracy and its leading role in the G-20 process and the ICAPP.

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

New Members of the Standing Committee

As the first business of the Meeting, the Members welcomed two new SC Members.

Hon. Hassan Ghafouri Fard, Former Vice President and Member of the Central Committee of the Islamic Motalefeh Party of Iran, has replaced Hon.Hossein Kashefi Vahdati, former President of the Iran Parties House, as SC Member of Iran.

Hon. Koichiro Watanabe, Member of the Diet and the new Director General of the Intertional Department of the Democratic Party of Japan, has replaced Hon. Chinami Nishimura, former Director General of the International Department of the Democratic Party of Japan as SC Member of Japan.

Future Work Programs

Time and Venue for the 7th General Assembly of the ICAPP

It was reported by the Secretariat that both the Party of the Functional Groups, or *Partai Golongan Karya (GOLKAR)*, of Indonesia, and the United Russia Party, which had previously expressed their willingness to host the 7th General Assembly (hereinafter referred to "the GA"), recently withdrew their offers due to new developments in their respective

countries.

In this regard, Hon. Asaf Hajiyev, Member of Parliament and Head of the International Department of the New Azerbaijan Party (hereinafter referred to "the NAP"), who attended the Meeting on behalf of the Hon. Ali Ahmadov, Deputy Chairman and Executive Secretary of the NAP, made the official proposal to host the 7th GA in Baku, Azerbaijan in late November 2012. He also submitted a tentative program of the 7th GA, which is attached as ***Appendix V***.

The Members welcomed the proposal and agreed to convene the 7th GA in Baku as proposed by the NAP. They also agreed to confirm the exact dates, the main theme and other details of the 7th GA as soon as the NAP submits them.

Meetings of the Standing Committee

The Members recalled that it was agreed to hold the 17th SC Meeting in Baku in June 2012 under the auspice of New Azerbaijan Party and the 18th SC Meeting on the sidelines of the 7th General Assembly at the same venue during the 7th GA. They also recalled that it was agreed to hold the 19th SC Meeting in Hanoi during the first half of 2013under the auspices of the Communist Party of Vietnam.

In this regard, Hon. Hassan Ghafouri Fard, SC Member representing the Islamic Motalefeh Party of Iran, expressed the willingness of his party to host the SC Meeting in Tehran in near future. The Members welcomed the offer.

ICAPP Special Conferences

Hon. Hwang Jin-ha, SC Member representing the Grand National Party (GNP) of Korea, expressed the willingness of his party to host an ICAPP Special Conference in early 2013 in Seoul on a topic to be decided later. He said that more concrete proposal would be provided through the Secretariat in due course. The Members welcomed the offer.

In this regard, Hon. Cho Yoon-sun, Member of the National Assembly and Spokesperson of the GNP, made a brief presentation on the results of the 1st Meeting of the Parliaments for Water in Asia (PWA) which was held in Seoul on November 30, 2010, in her capacity as the Chairwoman of the PWA. She requested the Members to encourage the parliamentarians of their respective countries to attend the 2nd Meeting of the PWA to be held in Seoul in December 2011. The Members expressed their appreciation on the presentation and shared the view that issues relating to water were very important to many countries in the region and agreed to encourage many parliamentarians to actively participate in future meetings of the PWA.

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

The Secretariat circulated the report on the results of the ICAPP Mission to the U.N. General Assembly during October 2-7, 2011 which is attached as ***Appendix IV.***

According to the report, the item regarding the ICAPP's application for observer status in the U.N. General Assembly (hereinafter referred to "the UNGA") was considered at the meeting of the Sixth Committee of the 66th session of the UNGA on October 3, 2011. The meeting concluded to continue its deliberations on the item at a later date to be decided by the Bureau

of the Committee, since there was no consensus on granting the observer status to the ICAPP.

The Secretariat noted that, by submitting the application for observer status with the reports on its activities to the UNGA, the ICAPP could have raised not only its visibility but also its relevance in the international community, especially among the Member States of the U.N.

The Secretariat also reminded the Members that the draft resolution to invite the ICAPP to participate in the work of the UNGA as observer was still open for co-sponsorship of other U.N. Member States in addition to the seven countries that had co-sponsored the resolution, i.e. Cambodia, Japan, Republic of Korea, Nepal, Pakistan, the Philippines and Vietnam. It requested SC Members from countries that have not joined as co-sponsors to strongly recommend their respective governments to do so.

In this regard, the SC Member of Indonesia confirmed that the Indonesian government recently decided to instruct its Mission to the U.N. to co-sponsor the draft resolution. The SC Members of Malaysia and Iran stated that they would remind their respective governments of the requests they had already made to co-sponsor the draft resolution. The representative of the COPPPAL also stated that several countries in Latin America and the Caribbean, including Chile, Cuba and Guatemala, agreed to strongly endorse the ICAPP's bid for observer status, and that the Secretariat of the COPPPAL would continue to coordinate its cooperation with the Secretariat of the ICAPP on this issue.

The Members agreed to render their full and continued support for the ICAPP's bid for the U.N. observer status. In particular, the SC Members, representing the countries that haven't participated as co-sponsors of the draft resolution, agreed to inform the Secretariat by no later than November 5, 2011 if their respective governments will join as co-sponsor.

ICAPP's Peace and Reconciliation Initiative

As an initiative to support the process of peace-building and the projects for negotiated political settlements in conflicted areas such as Nepal, Pakistan-India, and Afghanistan, Iraq, and the Spratlys and South China Sea, Hon. Jose de Venecia, Founding Chairman and Co-Chairman of the SC, at the Special Meeting of the ICAPP Standing Committee held in Nanning during September 3-4, 2011 in Nanning, China, proposed to establish an Asian Peace and Reconciliation Council (APRC) under the umbrella of the ICAPP, which would work in cooperation with the Centrist Asia Pacific Democrats International (CAPDI) Peace Commission.

In this regard, Co-Chairman de Venecia reminded the SC Members that the proposal for the APRC had been included in the Nanning Declaration of September 6, 2011 as one of ideas needed to create conducive conditions for development. He further reported that the proposal was later endorsed by the Cambodian Government and Thailand's Saranrom Institute of Foreign Affairs Foundation(SIFAF), and by the ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly, representing Southeast Asia's 10 parliaments, that met in Phnom Penh last month. Co-Chairman de Venecia also informed that the East Timorese Government would like to invite the ICAPP and CAPDI to hold a meeting of the APRC in East Timor in April 2012 to symbolize the enduring peace and reconciliation between East Timor and Indonesia despite the massacres incurred in the earlier period.

Peace Consultation for Nepal (PCN)

The SC Members recalled that, at the informal meetings held on the margins of the ICAPP Conference on Development and People's Access in Nanning during September 4-5, 2011, it was agreed to resume the Peace Consultation for Nepal (PCN) in Phnom Penh, Cambodia during October 23-26, 2011 under the auspices of the Government of the Kingdom of Cambodia in cooperation with ICAPP and CAPDI. It was further agreed, and confirmed by representatives of the three main political parties of Nepal, i.e. the Unified Party of Nepal(Maoist), the Nepali Congress and the Communist Party of Nepal(UML) who attended the informal meetings, that the leaders at highest possible level of their respective parties would be present at the PCN.

It was reported that the PCN was, however, canceled at the request of the Nepali side just two days prior to the planned dates. In this regard, the SC Member from Nepal, Hon. K.P. Sharma Oli, reported that, following the recommendation by the Chairman of the Constituent Assembly and reflecting the wishes of the Nepali people to concentrate on resolving outstanding issues, such as rehabilitation of ex-combatants, return of seized property, and others, before moving forward to engage in negotiations for the finalization of drafting the constitution, the leaders of all major political parties decided to continue their work remaining in Nepal during the proposed period of the PCN. He expressed his gratitude to the SC Members of the ICAPP for their initiative for the PCN and continued support to facilitate the early settlement of the peace process in Nepal. He also reported that the PCN might not be necessary if the peace process in Nepal would be concluded successfully by the new deadline of the end of November.

Hon. Sok An, Deputy Prime Minister and SC Member representing the Cambodian People's Party, expressed his understanding and informed that the Cambodian government would be willing to rekindle the PCN initiative only if there was reliable basis of the support for such exercise by the political leaders of Nepal.

In this regard, some Members expressed their views that that the ICAPP might have been over-ambitious with the PCN initiative, and stressed the need for more balanced and practical approach to deal with more pressing issues concerning the future of the region as a whole and the ICAPP's work programs. Some other Members pointed out that the ICAPP had become a viable platform to promote track II diplomacy to help resolve conflicts in the region, and stressed the need to extend ICAPP's good offices to seek negotiated political settlement through party-to-party dialogue.

The Members agreed to the need to keep balance between ICAPP's noble and idealistic objectives and political realities in the region, and continue to seek ways to help achieve negotiated political settlements of conflicts and disputes and other political deadlocks in the region. They also confirmed that the two guiding principles in such initiatives would be self-determination and non-interference. With regard to the PCN initiative, the Members agreed to assess the political situation in Nepal at the end of the new deadline of its peace process, and consider what step should be taken afterward.

Political Dialogue between India and Pakistan

Hon. Mushahid Sayed Hussain, SC Member representing Pakistan Muslim League. reported that the leaders of major political parties in Pakistan confirmed their willingness to participate in the political dialogue to be held under the auspices of the government of the Makati City, the Philippines tentatively during November 24-27, 2011, as earlier chosen by the representatives of India and Pakistan who participated the ICAPP Special Conference in Nanning last September.

In this regard, it was reported that the National Congress of India has not yet confirmed its intention whether to attend the meeting while the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) indicated its intention to attend it.

The Members endorsed this initiative and agreed to the proposal to communicate with all concerned parties again in due course, and adjust the dates for the dialogue, if necessary, to the first quarter of 2012.

Other Activities of the ICAPP

ICAPP Medical Emergency Forum (IMEF)

Hon. Dato Seri Shahidan Bin Kassim, SC Member representing the United Malay National Organization (UMNO) of Malaysia and Chairman of IMEF, reported on the recent activities of IMEF, including expedition of volunteers to Sudan to provide humanitarian aid to the victims of the earthquake. He also reported that there had been efforts to link networks with volunteer activities in disaster stricken areas in five different countries, i.e. Indonesia, Pakistan, Palestine, Somalia and Thailand. He reported, however, that the activities of the IMEF are mostly confined to Malaysia and reiterated the need to expand its activities to other parts of the region. In this regard, he proposed to establish national offices of the IMEF in different countries in the region and closely coordinate their activities with the IMEF Secretariat in Malaysia.

In addition, Hon. Datuk Raja Ropiaah Binti Abdullah, Deputy Chairman of IMEF, reported that as a step-by-step measure to expand IMEF's network within Malaysia, IMEF has worked together with the Malaysia Foundation and other local volunteer organizations.

The Members agreed to the need for more concerted efforts to expand the activities of the IMEF.

Establishment of the ICAPP Youth Wing

The Members agreed to establish the ICAPP Youth Wing to promote active participation of young political leaders in ICAPP activities and to help young people to explore and strengthen their capabilities as political leaders as well.

They further agreed to form a working group to prepare more detailed proposal for the establishment of the Youth Wing which was to be composed of from SC Members of Cambodia, Malaysia and Pakistan, with Hon. Dato Seri Shahidan Bin Kassim of the UMNO of Malaysia as its Chairman, with representatives of the Cambodian People's Party and the Funcinpec Party of Cambodia, and requested the working group to submit its proposal by the 17th SC Meeting to be held in June 2012.

Strengthening the Role of Women in Politics

Some Members proposed to consider forming an ICAPP Women's Wing in order to further strengthen the role of women in politics in the region. The Members agreed to continue to consider this proposal in the future, in view of the fact that women had been very actively involved in ICAPP activities through special workshops on women politicians held during the last three GAs. They further agreed to encourage all the political parties in the region to

seek ways to further promote women's participation, and their role, in politics.

Establishment of ICAPP Media Forum

The Members welcomed the proposal submitted by some media representatives (see ***Appendix VI***) during the ICAPP Special Conference on Development and People's Access last September, and agreed to that each SC Member nominate one journalist from each country to form a working group to discuss how to set up the ICAPP Media Forum. The main purpose of the forum will be to promote more interaction between the ICAPP and peoples in the region through more diversified and wider media coverage of the ICAPP activities.

In this regard, the Members suggested other ways to raise the public awareness about the ICAPP activities, such as each SC Member's acting as ICAPP spokesperson in their respective country, circulating a brief report on the results of each ICAPP activity among major media in the region, uploading information on ICAPP activities in the websites of each participating political party, and integrating social network service in the ICAPP website, etc.

New ICAPP Website

The Secretariat made a brief presentation on the new ICAPP website which is being overhauled in its structure and design layout. Several additional features were also demonstrated, such as electronically registering in future ICAPP meetings and getting access to information on each political party that is eligible to participate in the ICAPP activities. The new and upgraded version of the website will be completed for service by mid-January 2012.

Cooperation with COPPPAL

3rd Joint Session between the ICAPP and the COPPPAL

Hon. Gustavo Carvajal Moreno, Vice President of the COPPPAL, informed that it was decided to hold the 3rd Joint Session between the ICAPP's SC and the COPPPAL's Coordinating Body, in Buenos Aires either in late April or in May 2012.

Mr. Caravajal also mentioned that the COPPPAL would consider inviting representatives of selected political parties in Africa with a view to hold the first trilateral meeting on the sidelines of the 3rd ICAPP-COPPPAL Joint Session.

The Members welcomed the offer made by the COPPPAL.

Establishment of ICAPP-COPPPAL Economic Council

The Members reconfirmed their endorsement to establish the ICAPP-COPPPAL Economic Council to explore, and promote, potential areas or projects for economic cooperation between the two continents. It had been agreed that the ICAPP-COPPPAL Economic Council would be composed of representatives of both the ICAPP and the COPPPAL and business leaders of both Asia and Latin America and the Caribbean.

In order to facilitate the formation of the council, the Members agreed to nominate one business leader each from their respective country.

Cooperation with the APA

The Secretariat reported that, due to some administrative difficulties, the first meeting of the joint working group between the ICAPP's SC and the APA's Executive Council (EC) could not be held on the sidelines of the 16th Meeting in Seoul, and it would continue to closely coordinate with the APA Secretariat in view of holding the 1st Joint Session between the ICAPP's SC and the APA's EC in the near future.

In this regard, it was also reported that Hon Konstantin Kosachev, SC Member representing the United Russia Party (URP), recently suggested to the Secretariat that the URP could consider hosting the 1st Joint Session between the ICAPP's SC and the APA's EC in Vladivostok on the sidelines of the APA General Assembly that the URP was considering to host in late 2012.

Other Issues

Inviting International Organizations of Political Parties as Observers to ICAPP Meetings

The Members endorsed the proposal by Hon. Shane Stone, SC Member representing the Liberal Party of Australia, to invite International Democrat Union (IDU) to participate in future ICAPP activities as observers, including SC Meetings. The background paper on IDU is attached as ***Appendix VII.*** In this regard, it was also agreed to invite other international organizations of political parties of similar status to future ICAPP meetings as observers.

Support for Nuclear Safety

Hon. Mukhtar Yermen, who was participating on behalf of Hon. Nurlan Nigmatulin, SC Member representing the Nur Otan Party of Kazakhstan, introduced the message of H.E. Nursultan Nazarbayev, President of Republic of Kazakhstan, delivered at the 66th session of the U.N. General Assembly, and proposed to endorse the initiative taken by Kazakhstan to develop a "Universal Declaration of Nuclear-Free World," in particular in conjunction with the Nuclear Security Summit to be held in Seoul in April 2012.

In this regard, the Members welcomed the initiative of Kazakhstan and appreciated its enormous efforts in fighting against the proliferation of nuclear weapons and achieving nuclear-free world through concerted efforts under the security framework of the U.N.

Appendixes:

I. List of Participants in the Meeting
II. Program of the Meeting
III. Annotated Agenda of the Meeting
IV. Report on the Results of the ICAPP Mission to the UNGA
V. Tentative Program of the 7th GA
VI. Proposal for ICAPP Media Forum
VII. Background Paper on IDU