Summary Report on the Outcomes of the 12th Meeting of the Standing Committee of the International Conference of Asian Political Parties (ICAPP) (Kathmandu, Nepal, February 26-28, 2010)

The 12th Meeting of the Standing Committee (SC) of the International Conference of Asian Political Parties (ICAPP) was held in Kathmandu, Nepal under the auspice of the Communist Party of Nepal (UML) during February 26-28, 2010. The program and the list of participants are attached as ***Appendixes 1 and 2.***

The following understanding and agreements were made at the meeting:

First, the Members adopted unanimously a special statement in which they expressed strong support and solidarity to efforts of the people and the government of Nepal under the leadership of Prime Minister Madhav Kumar Nepal to successfully conclude the peace process and the constitution-making process in Nepal. The statement is attached as ***Appendix 3.***

Second, the Members reconfirmed their commitment to the principle of negotiated settlement of political differences through expanded dialogue among political parties, both domestically and internationally. In this respect, they took note with satisfaction of the recent resumption of talks between high-level government officials of India and Pakistan following the continued efforts by the ICAPP to promote party-to-party dialogue between the two countries. Similarly, they agreed to continue their efforts and to promote dialogue among the major political parties to resolve regional disputes by peaceful means.

Third, the Members welcomed the offer by the FUNCINPEC Party and the Cambodia People's Party to co-host the 6th General Assembly of the ICAPP in Phnom Pehn, Cambodia in late November or early December 2010 under the main theme of "Asia's Quest for a Better Tomorrow," with special emphasis on economy, energy and environment. They also agreed to the procedures and the tentative program for the GA. The exact dates for the GA will be decided in due course after checking on necessary logistics. In this respect, the Members agreed to the tentative program and procedures of the GA. They also acknowledged the report by the Secretariat that 263 political parties in 51 countries and 1 territory (Palestinian National Authority) in the region meet the criteria to be eligible to participate in the ICAPP activities as of the end of January 2010. The list of the political parties is attached as ***Appendix 4.***

Fourth, the Members welcomed the initiative by the Communist Party of China(CPC) to host a Special Workshop on "Poverty Reduction and Alleviation under Globalization" in early July 2010. The program of the workshop will include field trips in the western China and meetings in Beijing. The CPC will soon prepare a concept paper on the workshop which will include the scope of participants and the way to link the outcome of the workshop with other regional and global initiatives to fight poverty, such as the United Nations' Millenium Development Goals(MDGs).

Fifth, it was agreed to hold the 13th and 14th Meetings of the SC during the special workshop

in China and the 6th GA in Cambodia. The Members also welcomed the offers made by Malaysia and Korea to host the 15th and 16th Meetings of the SC during 2011. Russia and Bahrain have also expressed their willingness to host the SC Meetings in the future.

Sixth, the Members agreed to set up a joint working group between the ICAPP Standing Committee and the Executive Council of Asian Parliamentary Assembly (APA) to coordinate their activities for Asian integration. They agreed that the group will be composed of five representatives from each side and requested the Secretary Generals of the ICAPP and the APA to work on the agenda of the joint working group with a view to holding the first session in Jakarta, Indonesia in August 2010 or in Damascus, Syria in November 2010.

Seventh, the Members agreed to hold the 2nd Joint Session between the ICAPP Standing Committee and the Coordinating Body of the Permanent Conference of Political Parties in Latin America and the Caribbean (COPPPAL) on the margins of the 6th GA to be held in Cambodia.

Eighth, the Members agreed to continue their efforts, in cooperation with the COPPPAL, to reach out to the political parties in Africa and help them establish an organization among themselves. In this respect, they requested the Secretary General to establish contacts with major political parties in Africa and coordinate efforts with them to convene the first trilateral meeting among political parties in Asia, Latin America and Africa in near future.

Ninth, the Members welcomed three new Members of the Standing Committee, nominated by the three political parties which had been newly invited to serve in the SC until the end of the 6th GA, i.e. New Azerbaijan Party of Azerbaijan, Islamic National Menber Society of Bahrain, and Democratic Party of Japan. They also welcomed two new Members who have replaced outgoing Members representing Communist Party of China and "Nur Otan" People's Democratic Party of Kazakhstan. In this regard, the Members also acknowledged the arrangements between the two main political parties in Japan, i.e. Democratic Party of Japan and Liberal Democratic Party, that as long as Japan retains membership in the ICAPP SC, the representative of the political party with the largest number of seats in the Parliament at the time would represent Japan at the SC as its member, while the representative of the political party with second largest number of seats in the Parliament would attend the SC meetings as an observer to coordinate among themselves to ensure maximum contributions to the ICAPP objectives and activities. It was further noted that the similar arrangements had been reached between the two main political parties in the Republic of Korea, i.e. Grand National Party and Democratic Party, after the general elections in April 2008.

Appendix 1: Program of the Meeting
Appendix 2: List of Participants
Appendix 3: Statement on the Peace Process of Nepal
Appendix 4: List of Eligible Political Parties

Appendix 1:

Program for the 12th Meeting of the ICAPP Standing Committee
Kathmandu, February 26-28, 2010

Friday, February 26

Arrival of SC Members
- Hotel Raddison, Lazimpat, Kathmandu
  (close to downtown)
  (Tel: +977-1-4411818 or 4423888, Fax: +977-1-4411720)

18:00 Welcoming Reception hosted by Hon. Jhala Nath Khanal, Chairman of Communist Party of Nepal (UML)
(Venue: Hotel Malla, Thamel)

Saturday, February 27

09:30 First Session of the 12th SC Meeting (Venue: Hotel Radisson)
11:00 Coffee Break
11:15 Second Session of the 12th SC Meeting
12:30 Working Lunch
14:00 Third Session of the 12th SC Meeting
16:30 Adjournment of the 12th SC Meeting
17:30 Courtesy Call on H.E. Dr. Ram Baran Yadav, President of Nepal
19:00 Dinner hosted by H.E. Prime Minister Madhav Kumar Nepal (Venue: Official Residence of the Prime Minister)

Sunday, February 28

08:30 Tour of Swayambhunath Buddhist Stupa, Kathmandu
11:00 Press Conference (Venue: Hotel Radisson)
18:00 Reception cum Dinner hosted by Hon. K.P. Sharma Oli, Chief of International Department, Communist Party of Nepal (UML)
(Venue: Gokarna Forest Resort)

Departure of SC Members

Appendix 2:

List of Participants in the 12th Meeting of the ICAPP Standing Committee
Kathmandu, February 26-28, 2010

Participating Members of the Standing Committee: 15

● Hon. Chris McDiven, Immediate Past President, Liberal Party, Commonwealth of **Australia**

● Hon. Dr. Salah Ali Abdulrahman, Deputy Speaker of the Council of Representatives and Chair of the Advisory Body of Islamic National Menber Society, Kingdom of **Bahrain**

● H.E. KEO Puth Reasmey, President, the FUNCINPEC Party, Kingdom of **Cambodia**

● Hon. Liu Jieyi, Vice Minister, International Department of the Central Committee, Communist Party of China, People's Republic of **China**

● Hon. Yukihisa Fujita, Member of the House of Councillors, and Director General of the International Department, Democratic Party of Japan**, Japan**

● Mr. Sayabek Sakhiev, Director of International Division of the "Nur Otan" PDP, on behalf of Hon. Nurlan Nigmatullin, First Deputy Chairman, "Nur Otan" People's Democratic Party(PDP), Republic of **Kazakhstan**

● Hon. HWANG Jin-ha, Chairman, Second Policy Coordination Committee, Grand National Party, Republic of **Korea**

● Hon. Dato Seri Shahidan bin Kassim, Special Adviser to the Prime Minister for the Northern Region Economic Growth, and Member of Supreme Council, United Malay National Organization(UMNO), **Malaysia**

● H.E. Madhav Kumar Nepal, Prime Minister and Senior Leader of Communist Party of Nepal (UML), Republic of **Nepal**

● Hon. Mushahid Hussain Sayed, Secretary-General, Pakistan Muslim League (PML), Islamic Republic of **Pakistan**

● H.E. Jose de Venecia, Founding Chairman of the ICAPP and Co-Chairman of the Standing Committee, President Emeritus of Lakas-CMD Party and Former Speaker of the House of Representatives, Republic of the **Philippines**

● Hon. Konstantin Kosachev, Deputy Secretary for International Policy and Interparty Relations, Presidium of the General Council, United Russia Party, **Russian Federation**

● Hon. Abdulkadir Emin Onen, Member of National Assembly and Sanliurfa Deputy, Justice and Development Party (AK PARTi), Republic of **Turkey**

● Hon. Dr. Pham Xuan Son, Standing Vice Chairman, Central Commission for External Relations, Communist Party of Vietnam, Socialist Republic of **Vietnam**

● Hon. CHUNG Eui-yong, Co-Chairman of the ICAPP Standing Committee and Secretary General, **ICAPP Secretariat**

Special Participants: 11

● Cambodia (1)
- H.E. SOK An, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister in charge of the Office of the Council of Ministers, and Member of the Standing Committee of the **Cambodia People's Party**

● Korea (1)
- Hon. OOH Che-chang, Member of the National Assembly, Spokesman and Deputy Floor Leader, **Democratic Party**

● Nepal (4)
- Hon. Jhala Nath Khanal, Chairman of **Communist Party of Nepal (UML)**
- Mr. K P Sharma Oli, Chief of International Department of **CPN (UML)**
- Mr. Rajan Bhattarai, Advisor to the Prime Minister on Foreign Affairs
- Hon. Dr. Narayan Khadka, Member of Constituent Assembly, **Nepali Congress**

● Pakistan (1)
- Hon. Alim Adil Sheikh, Senior Vice President, **Pakistan Muslim League (PML)**

● Philippines (2)
- Hon. Thelmo Cunanan, Special Advisor to the President of the Lakas-CMD Party and Chairman of the Philippine Social Security System
- Hon. Amado Valdez, Former Minister and Advisor to the Chairman of the United Opposition Party

● Asian Parliamentary Assembly (1)
- Hon. Dr. Hadi Nejad Hosseinian, Secretary General, Secretariat of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly (APA), Tehran, Iran

● COPPPAL (1)
- Hon. Gustavo Carvajal Moreno, Co-Chairman of COPPPAL

Accompanying Delegates: 22

● Cambodia, FUNCINPEC Party (2)
- Mr. JIANG Mingjin, Advisor, **the FUNCINPEC Party**
- Mr. TEE Ching Sing, Advisor, **the FUNCINPEC Party**

● Cambodia, Cambodian People's Party (5)
- Hon. YOS Son, Member of the National Assembly, and President of Commission for Foreign Affairs
- Hon. SUOS Yara, Under Secretary of State for Development, Defense and Security in the Office of the Coucil of Ministers, and Vice President of Commission for Foreign Affairs, -
- Hon. SOK Keang, Member of Commission for Foreign Affairs
- Hon. SAY Samal, Member of Commission for Foreign Affairs
- Mr. SOK Sokan, Assistant to Commission for Foreign Affairs

● **China (3)**
- Hon. Ai Ping, Director General of IDCPC
- Mr. Li Yuanling, Division Director of IDCPC
- Mr. Ren Dazhi, Third Secretary of IDCPC.

● **Korea (1)**
- Mr. PARK Jin-ho, Legislative Assistant to Hon. HWANG Jin-ha

● **Malaysia (5)**
- Ms. Hafizah Abu Bakar, Secretary of Public Relations, International and Protocol Division, UMNO
- YM Datuk Raja Ropiaah Abdullah, Chairman of the International Bureau, UMNO
- Ms. Wan Zawiyah Wan Halim, Executive Officer of Young Women's Wing, UMNO
- Ms. Zahida Zarik Khan, Executive Officer of Young Women's Wing, UMNO
- Mr. Harris Fadzilla Ramli, Chief Officer for Logistics, UMNO

● **Philippines (1)**
- Mr. Ben Pagauitan, Assistant to Hon. Jose de Venecia, Jr.

● **Vietnam (2)**
- Mr. Le Gia Kien, Staff at the Central Commission for External Relations, Communist Party of Vietnam
- Ms. Do Lien Huong, Staff at the Central Commission for External Relations, Communist Party of Vietnam

● **ICAPP Secretariat (2)**
- Ms. PARK Hyun-ryang, Administrative Director
- Ms. LIM Stephanie Seon-min, Program Coordinator

Non-Participating Members of the SC: 4

● Hon. Ahmadov Ali Javad, Member of Parliament, Deputy Chairman and Executive Secretary of New Azerbaijan Party, Azerbaijan (due to an urgent event of national importance in late February)

● Representative of Hon. Dr. Karan Singh, Chairman, Foreign Affairs Department, Indian National Congress (Indira Gandhi), Republic of **India** (due to other urgent commitments)

● Hon. Theo L. Sambuaga, Vice President, GOLKAR Party, Republic of **Indonesia** ((due to the National Conference of the GOLKAR Party unexpectedly rescheduled for the period of Feb. 26-28, 2010)

● Hon. Hossein Kashefi Vahdati, President of Iran Parties House, Islamic Republic of **Iran**

Non-Participating Special Guest: 1

● Hon. Taro Kono, Member of Parliament, and Director General of the International Department, Liberal Democratic Party of **Japan**

Appendix 3:

Statement by the ICAPP Standing Committee
on the Peace Process of Nepal
Kathmandu, February 28, 2010

The Members of the Standing Committee of the International Conference of Asian Political Parties(ICAPP), who have attended their 12th Meeting held in Kathmandu, Nepal during February 26-28, 2010, expressed their complete support and solidarity for the efforts of the people and the Government of Nepal under the able leadership of Prime Minister Madhav Kumar Nepal to successfully conclude the peace process and the constitution-making process, and gear up for economic development. In this regard, the Members shared the view with the Prime Minister that "freedom rang hollow where there was no development, and development lost its soul if it was not accompanied by freedom."

The Members also reaffirmed the principles of sovereignty, territorial integrity, political independence, non-interference and peaceful settlement of disputes as the bedrock of international relations, and recognized that the coming few months before May 2010 date for the promulgation of a new democratic constitution are critical for the successful conclusion of the peace process in Nepal. In this regard, the Members welcomed commitments by all political parties in Nepal to expedite the on-going peace process in the country and to work together in a spirit of cooperation, consensus and compromise in order to continue the transition to a durable long-term solution to enable the country to move to a peaceful, democratic and more prosperous future. The Members also made strong commitments to share their expertise and experiences in constitution-making and provide whatever possible support and assistance to bring the peace process in Nepal to a most successful conclusion as envisaged by the people of Nepal.

The Members took a particular note of the recent proposal put forward by the Prime Minister of Nepal to the Special Committee on having a timetable action plan for the integration and rehabilitation of Maoist combatants by May 15, 2010 and called upon all stakeholders to work together to ensure the completion and implementation of this plan by the May 15 deadline as proposed by the Prime Minister. In this regard, the Members strongly appealed to all political parties in Nepal to cease activities which violate the Comprehensive Peace Agreement of November 21, 2006 and disrupt daily life as well as the functioning of Government offices, sharply escalating tensions around the country.

The Members welcomed the recent decision by the U.N. Security Council to extend the mandate of the U.N. Mission in Nepal (UNMIN) until May 10, 2010 and called upon all political parties in Nepal to take full advantage of the expertise and readiness of the Mission to advance the peace process, facilitate the completion of the Mission's outstanding tasks and continue to lay the foundation for a peaceful, democratic and prosperous future. In this regard, the Members recommended U.N. Secretary General Ban Ki Moon to visit Nepal at an earliest possible date and meet leaders of all political parties in Nepal to help them successfully conclude the peace process.