ICAPP-2021 May. (4)

Conclusions of the 35th Meeting of the ICAPP Standing Committee

(Online Conference, 21 April 2021)

International Conference of Asian Political Parties

Hon. Jose de Venecia, Jr.
Co-Chairman
The 35th Meeting of the ICAPP Standing Committee
(Online Conference, 21 April 2021)

Pakistan
Hon. Ali Ahiyadov
Azerbaijan
Hon. Dato Seri Shahidan bin Kassim
Malaysia
Hon. Theo L. Sambuaga
Indonesia

Hon. Prof. Dr. Hassan Ghafoori Fard
Iran
Hon. Cho Jeong-sik
Republic of Korea
Hon. Efkan Ala
Turkey

Hon. U Tin Oo Lwin
Myanmar

Xu Min
Hon. Jan Zahradil
Czech Republic

35th

Standing Committee Meeting

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History of the ICAPP Standing Committee Meetings

2021	**April**	**35th SC Meeting** *Venue:* **Online Conference**
2020	**November**	**34th SC Meeting** *Venue:* **Online Conference**
2019	**December**	**33rd SC Meeting** *Venue:* **Terengganu, Malaysia**
	April	**32nd SC Meeting** *Venue:* **Colombo, Sri Lanka**
2018	**October**	**31st SC Meeting** *Venue:* **Moscow, Russian Federation**
	May	**30th SC Meeting** *Venue:* **London, United Kingdom**
	February	**29th SC Meeting** *Venue:* **Tehran, Iran**
2017	**July**	**28th SC Meeting** *Venue:* **Seoul, Republic of Korea**
2016	**November**	**Informal SC Meeting** *Venue:* **Istanbul, Turkey**
	September	**27th SC Meeting** *Venue:* **Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia**
	April	**26th SC Meeting** *Venue:* **Jakarta, Indonesia**
2015	**October**	**25th SC Meeting** *Venue:* **Beijing, China**
	March	**24th SC Meeting** *Venue:* **Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia**
2014	**September**	**23rd SC Meeting** *Venue:* **Colombo, Sri Lanka**
	May	**22nd SC Meeting** *Venue:* **Vladivostok, Russia**
2013	**November**	**21st SC Meeting** *Venue:* **Ankara, Turkey**
	September	**Informal SC Meeting** *Venue:* **Seoul, Republic of Korea**
	May	**20th SC Meeting** *Venue:* **Xi'an, China**
	April	**19th SC Meeting** *Venue:* **Hanoi, Vietnam**
2012	**November**	**18th SC Meeting** *Venue:* **Baku, Azerbaijan**
	June	**17th SC Meeting** *Venue:* **Baku, Azerbaijan**
2011	**October**	**16th SC Meeting** *Venue:* **Seoul, Republic of Korea**
	September	**Special SC Meeting** *Venue:* **Nanning, China**
	May	**15th SC Meeting** *Venue:* **Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia**
2010	**December**	**14th SC Meeting** *Venue:* **Phnom Penh, Cambodia**
	July	**13rd SC Meeting** *Venue:* **Kunming, China**
	February	**12nd SC Meeting** *Venue:* **Kathmandu, Nepal**
2009	**September**	**11st SC Meeting** *Venue:* **Astana, Kazakhstan**
	March	**10th SC Meeting** *Venue:* **Astana, Kazakhstan**
2008	**March**	**9th SC Meeting** *Venue:* **Islamabad, Pakistan**
2007	**November**	**8th SC Meeting** *Venue:* **Tehran, Iran**
	February	**7th SC Meeting** *Venue:* **Seoul, Republic of Korea**
2006	**September**	**6th SC Meeting** *Venue:* **Seoul, Republic of Korea**
	June	**5th SC Meeting** *Venue:* **Seoul, Republic of Korea**
2005	**May**	**4th SC Meeting** *Venue:* **Seoul, Republic of Korea**
2004	**September**	**3rd SC Meeting** *Venue:* **Beijing, China**
2002	**November**	**2nd SC Meeting** *Venue:* **Bangkok, Thailand**
2000	**September**	**1st SC Meeting** *Venue:* **Manila, Philippines**

Conclusions

Conclusions of the 35th Meeting of the ICAPP Standing Committee
(Online Conference, 21 April 2021)

The 35th 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 (ICAPP) was held as an online conference on 21 April 2021 due to travel restrictions imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Meeting began and closed with remarks by Hon. Jose de Venecia, Jr., Founder of the ICAPP and Co-Chairman of the SC, and former Speaker of the House of Representatives of Philippines. Hon. Chung Eui-yong, Co-Chairman of the SC and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Korea, presided over the opening session and left afterwards due to a schedule conflict. Hon. Cho Byung-jae, Secretary-General of the ICAPP, presided over the rest of the meeting.

Documents for the Meeting, including the program, list of participants, list of speakers, annotated agenda, and rules of procedure, are attached as ***Appendixes I-1*** through ***I-5***.

Issues Relating to the ICAPP Standing Committee (SC)

New Members of the SC

SC Members acknowledged that there have been three changes to the SC membership since the 34th Meeting, which was held on 25 November 2021. They extended a warm welcome to the new SC Members and also expressed their gratitude to the old SC Members for their contributions to the ICAPP.

First, as was informed by the ICAPP Update 21-04 on 22 February 2021, Hon. U Tin Oo Lwin, Member of the Central Committee of Union Solidarity and Development Party (USDP) and former Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs from 2011 to 2016, has replaced Hon. U Wunna Maung Lwin as the representative of USDP in the ICAPP SC. Hon. U Wunna Maung Lwin has been appointed as the Union Minister of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in the State Administration Council of Myanmar as of 1 February 2021.

Second, as was informed by the ICAPP Update 21-06 on 25 March 2021, the party which was previously known as Nepal Communist Party changed its name to Communist Party of Nepal (UML). In addition, Hon. Dr. Rajan Bhattarai, Foreign Policy Advisor to the Prime Minister of Nepal, and Central Committee Member of the Communist Party of Nepal (UML), has replaced Hon. Jhala Nath Khanal, former Prime Minister of Nepal, as the party representative to the ICAPP SC.

Third, as was informed by the ICAPP Update 21-11 on 19 April 2021, Hon. Prakob Chirakiti, former Member of Parliament and former Executive Director of Democrat Party, Thailand, has replaced Hon. Chamni Sakdiset, Advisor to H.E. Jurin Laksanawisit, the Party Leader of Democrat Party, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Commerce of Thailand.

Since the 34th SC Meeting, the Indian National Congress (INC) has notified the Secretariat that its representative to the ICAPP SC may change upon internal discussions. The Secretariat

is waiting to hear back on INC's final nomination, and will circulate an update once the letter of appointment has been received.

The updated list of SC Members is attached as ***Appendix II***. Official letters of appointment of new SC Members are also attached as ***Appendixes III-1*** through ***III-3***.

On the Passing Away of Hon. Abdul Matin Khasru

SC Members were informed through the ICAPP Update 21-10 on 16 April 2021 that Hon. Abdul Matin Khasru, Member of Parliament and Member of the Presidium of the Bangladeh *Awami* League and former Minister of Law and Justice of Bangladesh, had passed away in Dhaka, Bangladesh on 14 April 2021.

In this regard, a condolence statement was issued by Co-Chairman Jose de Venecia, Jr., Co-Chairman Chung Eui-yong, and Secretary-General Cho Byung-jae. The statement expressed deep sorrow and condolences at the news, and highlighted Hon. Abdul Matin Khasru's achievements as a statesman par excellence who dedicated himself to public service and the pursuit of justice. It also underlined his positive contributions to the ICAPP in promoting dialogue and cooperation among political parties in Asia.

SC Members also expressed their sadness and heartfelt condolences to the family of Hon. Abdul Matin Khasru and the people of Bangladesh for their loss.

The condolence statement is attached as ***Appendix IV***.

Future Meetings of the SC

SC members agreed that, should the pandemic situation permit, the 36th SC Meeting will be held in Istanbul, Turkey, back-to-back with the 11th General Assembly (GA) in October 2021, based on the *AK Parti*'s proposal. The Secretariat added that, if the global situation does not improve, it would be appropriate to organize the 36th SC meeting as an online conference in October 2021.

At the 34th SC Meeting, Hon. Cho Jeong-sik, Member of the National Assembly from the Democratic Party of Korea, Republic of Korea, had made a proposal from his party to host one of the SC Meetings in-person in 2021 if the situation allows for it. However, given the ongoing waves of COVID-19, and the upcoming presidential campaigns in the Republic of Korea in March 2022, he stated that his party would host the 37th SC Meeting in Seoul, Korea in the first half of next year instead.

Review of the ICAPP Activities Since the 34th SC Meeting in November 2020

Special Video Conference of the ICAPP Youth Wing: Education and Social Protection Mechanisms for Youth During and After COVID-19

The Secretariat reported that the Special Video Conference of the ICAPP Youth Wing was held online over the Zoom platform on 3 February 2021. The conference was attended by 33 political parties from 24 countries.

The 1st session of the conference focused on the topic of "Enabling continuity in learning for youth" and the 2nd session, on "Expanding social protection mechanisms for young people who have lost their jobs or experienced income reductions." The sessions began with keynote presentations by experts from international organizations: Ms. Jenelle Babb, Regional Advisor, Education for Health and Wellbeing, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) Bangkok, presented in the 1st session, and Mr. Markus Ruck, Senior Specialist on Social Protection, International Labour Organization (ILO) Decent Work Team for East and South East Asia and the Pacific, spoke in the 2nd session.

The participants discussed the disruptions in youth education and employment as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. They called for a coherent response system, and stressed the need for social protection measures catered to the marginalized youth.

The program, list of participants and statement from the Special Video Conference of the ICAPP Youth Wing are attached as ***Appendixes V-1, V-2 and V-3***.

Special Video Conference of the ICAPP Women's Wing: Women's Empowerment During and After COVID-19

The Secretariat reported that the Special Video Conference of the ICAPP Women's Wing was held online over the Zoom platform on 24 February 2021. The conference was attended by 32 political parties from 22 countries.

The 1st session of the conference focused on the topic of "Women's economic insecurity" and the 2nd session, on "Gender-based violence." The sessions began with keynote presentations by experts from international organizations: Ms. Maria Holtsberg, Regional Advisor for Humanitarian Action and Disaster Reduction at the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women), Regional Office of Asia and the Pacific, presented in the 1st session, and Ms. Cai Cai, Chief of the Gender Equality and Social Inclusion Section, Social Development Division of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP), spoke in the 2nd session.

The participants acknowledged the economic challenges faced by women and noted the severity of the rise in gender-based violence. They called for immediate policy measures to improve women's economic stability and equip more efficient emergency response systems to prevent violence against women.

The program, list of participants and statement from the Special Video Conference of the ICAPP Women's Wing are attached as ***Appendixes VI-1, VI-2 and VI-3***.

2nd Meeting of the Asian Cultural Council (ACC): Harnessing Culture and Innovation for Shared Prosperity During COVID-19 and Beyond

The Secretariat reported that the 2nd Meeting of the ACC was held online over the Zoom platform on 19 March 2021. The meeting was attended by 25 political parties from 19 countries.

The 1st session of the conference focused on the topic of "Investment in culture and creativity" and the 2nd session, on "Promotion of culture-innovation nexus." The sessions began with keynote presentations by experts from international organizations: Mr. Sardar Umar Alam, Head of Office and UNESCO Representative to Cambodia, and Dr. Piseth Keo, Vice-President

of Asian Vision Institute (AVI), presented in the 1st session. Ms. Sandrine Capelle-Manuel, Multi-Country Office Director of the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS) in Cambodia, and Dr. Masanori Nagaoka, Programme Specialist for Culture at the UNESCO Office in Phnom Penh, spoke in the 2nd session.

On the occasion of the conference, H.E. Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen, Prime Minister of Cambodia and Honorary Founding Chairman of the ACC, H.E. Mohammad Jusuf Kalla, former Vice-President of Indonesia, and H.E. K.P. Sharma Oli, Prime Minister of Nepal, sent congratulatory messages to the participants and wished them a successful meeting.

The participants discussed the current situation of the cultural and creative industries (CCI). They expressed their commitment to policy measures and investments in infrastructure that would enable CCI sectors to successfully adapt to the evolving demands for cultural products.

The program, list of participants and declaration from the 2nd Meeting of the ACC are attached as ***Appendixes VII-1, VII-2 and VII-3***. The congratulatory messages from H.E. Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen, H.E. Mohammad Jusuf Kalla, and H.E. K.P. Sharma Oli are attached as ***Appendixes VII-4, VII-5, and VII-6***.

ICAPP Work Program for the Remainder of 2021

SC Members agreed to the tentative work program for the remainder of 2021, which had been prepared by the Secretariat.

a. *2nd Special Video Conference on the COVID-19 Pandemic (Online Conference, May 2021)*
b. *6th Meeting of the ICAPP Youth Wing and 7th Meeting of the ICAPP Women's Wing (Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, September 2021)*
c. *11th GA and the "20th Founding Anniversary" Event (Istanbul, Turkey, October 2021)*
d. *36th Meeting of the ICAPP SC (Istanbul, Turkey, October 2021)*
e. *4th Trilateral Meeting among the ICAPP-COPPPAL-CAPP (Istanbul, Turkey, October 2021)*
f. *5th Meeting of the ICAPP Media Forum (Istanbul, Turkey, October 2021)*
g. *2nd Meeting of the ICAPP Tourism Promotion and Inter-City Cooperation (TOPIC) Council (Istanbul, Turkey, October 2021)*
h. *4th Asia-Europe Political Forum (AEPF) (Prague, Czech Republic, November 2021)*
i. *Special Conference on Security and Cooperation: Role of Political Parties (Baku, Azerbaijan, 26 November or 3 December 2021)*

The ICAPP work program for the remainder of 2021 is attached as ***Appendix VIII***.

Preparations for the 11th GA and Other Joint Meetings

Plans for the 11th GA and the "20th Founding Anniversary Event," 36th SC Meeting, 4th Trilateral Meeting of the ICAPP-COPPPAL-CAPP, 5th Meeting of the ICAPP Media Forum, and 2nd Meeting of the ICAPP Tourism Promotion and Inter-City Cooperation (TOPIC) Council

During the Meeting, Hon. Efkan Ala, Deputy Chairman of *AK Parti*, Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Department of *AK Parti*, Member of Parliament of Bursa, Turkey, renewed his party's offer from the last SC meeting to host the 11th GA together with the 36th SC Meeting, the 4th Trilateral Meeting of the ICAPP-*COPPPAL*-CAPP, and the 5th Meeting of the ICAPP Media Forum in Istanbul, Turkey later this year. He added that the *AK Parti* would host the 2nd Meeting of the TOPIC Council on the sidelines as well, since the Council of African Political Parties (CAPP) has not renewed its commitment to host the meeting in Tunis, Tunisia.

In terms of timing, Hon. Efkan Ala agreed to change the dates for the 11th GA and the sideline meetings from 17-20 September 2021 to the second part of October. This change was first suggested at the 34th SC meeting in light of Russia's state *Duma* elections, which are scheduled to take place in mid-September this year.

Hon. Efkan Ala also expressed *AK Parti*'s willingness to organize events at the 11th GA to commemorate the ICAPP's "20th Founding Anniversary," and to honor Hon. Jose de Venecia, Jr., Founder of the ICAPP and Co-Chairman of the ICAPP SC, for his foundational contributions to the ICAPP. In the previous SC Meeting, SC Members had suggested to organize a peace lecture honoring Hon. Jose de Venecia, Jr., and to invite a keynote speaker such as the Director-General of the World Health Organization (WHO), Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, to speak about the challenges for Asia during and after the COVID-19 pandemic.

With regards to the 5th Meeting of the ICAPP Media Forum, Hon. Mushahid Hussain Sayed, Vice Chairperson and Special Rapporteur of the ICAPP SC and Chairman of the Senate Committee on Foreign Affairs, Pakistan Muslim League-N of Pakistan, suggested that the ICAPP invite a select group of journalists from different parts of Asia to participate. He added that a core group of journalists should be formed to help increase ICAPP's visibility in the areas of social, electronic and print media moving forward. Given his previous experience as a journalist and as the former Minister of Information of Pakistan, Hon. Musahahid Hussain Sayed offered to provide his ideas and input to the ICAPP in achieving this goal.

The SC Members thanked the *AK Parti* for generously agreeing to host all five aforementioned meetings in Istanbul, Turkey, and for incorporating suggestions from the SC.

Activities of the ICAPP-Affiliated Bodies

The 4th Meeting of the Asia-Europe Political Forum (AEPF)

At the 34th SC Meeting, the SC Members had been informed that the 4th AEPF Meeting in Prague, Czech Republic would be postponed to 21-23 May 2021 after consultations with the Bureau of the European Conservatives and Reformists Group (ECR) and the SC Members. Since then, the Secretariat has continued to communicate with the ECR on future plans for the meeting. Hon. Jan Zahradil, Co-Chairman of the AEPF, Vice-Chair of the International Trade Committee and Member of the European Parliament, attended the Meeting on the invitation of Secretary-General Cho Byung-jae to brief SC Members on plans for the next AEPF meeting.

During the Meeting, Hon. Jan Zahradil proposed to postpone the 4th AEPF Meeting until the 1st or 2nd week of November 2021, given the unfavorable situation in Europe due to the COVID-19 pandemic. He also raised the issue of extending his Co-Chairmanship until the next AEPF Meeting, as he has not been able to carry out the AEPF activities due to the pandemic.

Given the extremely low feasibility of hosting an in-person conference in May 2021, the SC Members supported the postponement of the 4th AEPF Meeting until November of this year. Also, they agreed with Hon. Zahradil and the Secretariat that it would be practical and appropriate to extend the term of the AEPF Bureau until the next meeting in light of the current circumstances.

The 6th Meeting of the ICAPP Youth Wing and the 7th Meeting of the ICAPP Women's Wing

During the 34th SC meeting, the Mongolian People's Party had renewed its offer to host the 6th Meeting of the ICAPP Youth Wing and the 7th Meeting of the ICAPP Women's Wing in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia in October 2021. Since then, the party has proposed 6-8 September 2021 as the new dates for these meetings through separate communication to the Secretariat.

In this regard, Hon. Saikhansanaa Khurelbaatar, Advisor to the Secretary General of the Mongolian People's Party, reiterated her party's proposal to host the two meetings in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia in September 2021.

ICAPP Special Conferences

The 2nd Special Video Conference on the COVID-19 Pandemic

During the 34th SC Meeting, SC Members had agreed to organize a follow-up conference on the COVID-19 pandemic given the importance of international cooperation during the crisis.

In this regard, the Secretariat informed SC Members that the conference was postponed to May 2021 due to the logistical difficulties of scheduling multiple ICAPP meetings in the first quarter, although one of the SC Members had suggested March 2021 at the previous SC Meeting. The SC Members continued to express strong support for the organization of the 2nd Special Video Conference on the COVID-19 Pandemic.

The updated draft concept paper of the 2nd Special Video Conference on the COVID-19 Pandemic is attached as ***Appendix IX***.

Special Conference on Security and Cooperation: Role of Political Parties

During the 34th SC meeting, the New Azerbaijan Party had offered to host a Special Conference on Peace and Cooperation, "Peace and Cooperation Dialogue," in Baku, Azerbaijan in the middle of 2021.

Since then, the New Azerbaijan Party has suggested 26 November or 3 December 2021 as the new date for the conference through separate communication to the Secretariat. The party has also proposed to rename the conference to the "Special Conference on Security and Cooperation: Role of Political Parties."

In this regard, Hon. Ali Ahmadov, Deputy Chairman of the New Azerbaijan Party, Deputy Prime Minister of the Republic of Azerbaijan, renewed his party's proposal to host the Special Conference at the end of this year. He also suggested that the conference be held with joint participation from both Asian and European political parties as this would be in line with the philosophy of the Asia-Europe Political Forum (AEPF) of the ICAPP.

Special Conference on Asian Democracy and Political Party Development

During the Meeting, Hon. Cho Jeong-sik, Member of the National Assembly from the Democratic Party of Korea, Republic of Korea, expressed his party's willingness to host a Special Conference on Asian Democracy and Political Party Development back-to-back with the 37th SC Meeting in Seoul, Korea in the first half of next year, when the pandemic situation is further resolved and the local presidential elections are over.

Other Issues

Political Situation in Myanmar

The SC Members were informed through the ICAPP Update 21-02 on 22 February 2021 that a statement had been issued by Hon. Jose de Venecia, Jr., Founder of the ICAPP and Co-Chairman of the ICAPP SC, and Hon. Cho Byung-jae, Secretary-General of the ICAPP, given the urgent situation in Myanmar. The statement called for a restoration of democracy and stability as well as a resolution of tensions among all parties through peaceful dialogue. Also, it reaffirmed strong support for the people of Myanmar in their pursuit of democracy, peace, and the rule of law.

During the Meeting, many SC Members called for a peaceful resolution and protection of human rights in Myanmar. In particular, Hon. Theo L. Sambuaga, Vice Chairman of the Patron Council of *Golkar* Party, Indonesia, stated that the ASEAN should be encouraged to come up with appropriate and effective solutions at its upcoming Special Summit on Myanmar, which will be held in Jakarta, Indonesia on 24 April 2021. He suggested that the State Administration Council and the National Unity Government led by Aung San Suu Kyi be invited to engage in a dialogue with the aim of developing Myanmar based on democracy, growth, the promotion of human rights, and good governance. He also mentioned that this should be preceded by stopping the brutality against peaceful protestors and by releasing political prisoners.

In this regard, Hon. Cho Jeong-Sik informed SC Members that the National Assembly of the Republic of Korea had passed a parliamentary resolution condemning the military coup in Myanmar. He expressed his hopes that human rights violations and the use of violence against the people of Myanmar will stop as soon as possible, and called upon the ICAPP to pay special and continuous attention to this issue.

Hon. Youssef Awad, Coordinator for Asia and Overseas from the Free Patriotic Movement Party of Lebanon, suggested that the ICAPP should make more efforts on the ground to diffuse tensions in certain countries where there are political problems such as Myanmar. He added that in such situations, the ICAPP should form and send a delegation to offer assistance.

In response to Hon. Youssef Awad's suggestion, Secretary-General Cho Byung-jae reminded SC Members that the ICAPP had sent a delegation to Myanmar back in 2012 to offer support to the USDP and the National League for Democracy (NLD) in their efforts to achieve full democracy in the country. He agreed that such works of the ICAPP would continue to remain as a possibility in the future.

Meanwhile, Hon. U Tin Oo Lwin, Member of the Central Committee of USDP, former Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Myanmar, thanked the SC Members for their concerns for

Myanmar. He stated that currently, investigations are being held regarding the misconduct and fraud during the general elections of 2020. He also added that during the current state of emergency, the State Administration Council has established a roadmap which includes the following: the reconstruction of the Union Election Commission in accordance with the law; effective measures to prevent the COVID-19 disease; recovery of businesses affected by the pandemic; restoration of peace nationwide in line with agreements from the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA); and lastly, a free and fair multi-party democratic election in accordance with the 2008 Constitution after the state of emergency concludes, followed by the handover of state duty to the winning party in line with the standards of democracy.

The statement on Myanmar issued by Hon. Jose de Venecia, Jr., Founder of the ICAPP and Co-Chairman of the ICAPP SC, and Hon. Cho Byung-jae, Secretary-General of the ICAPP, is attached as ***Appendix X***.

Launch of the ICAPP Newsletter

The Secretariat reported that it had newly launched the ICAPP newsletter this month. The newsletter is to be distributed amongst the ICAPP Members, conference participants and experts in the public and international affairs sectors on a quarterly basis. The Secretariat added that this initiative will further strengthen the ICAPP network and keep the ICAPP Members up-to-date on new developments within the organization. It also expressed its hopes that the newsletter will serve as an effective communication channel with external groups such as international organizations, governments, media, NGOs, think tanks and all other parties who are interested in engaging with the ICAPP.

The SC Members showed support for the Secretariat's new initiative. Hon. Nguyen Thai Hoang Van, Vice Chairman of the Commission for External relations of the Communist Party of Vietnam, who attended the Meeting on behalf of Hon. Nguyen Manh Cuong, Member of the ICAPP SC, agreed that the newsletter will keep the ICAPP member parties up-to-date on the ICAPP activities, and strengthen the communication network among all member parties.

The ICAPP newsletter from April 2021 is attached as ***Appendix XI***.

Developing a "Concept of Financing of Asian Political Parties"

During the Meeting, Hon. Ali Ahmadov, Deputy Chairman of the New Azerbaijan Party, Deputy Prime Minister of the Republic of Azerbaijan, raised the issue of financing and state support for political parties as a potential discussion topic for the ICAPP. He stated that there are a number of political parties that are unable to function effectively due to financial difficulties; and although state subsidies can alleviate the problem to a certain extent, it is not quite enough. As such, Hon. Ali Ahmadov proposed that the ICAPP develop a "Concept of Financing of Asian Political Parties" for the normal functioning of parties by studying the issue of financial resources and by sharing the experiences of various political parties across different countries. He added that the financing of political parties on an open, transparent and legal basis would provide a foundation for the independent activities of political parties in the absence of external influences.

Extending the Term of the Bureau for ICAPP-Affiliated Bodies

During the Meeting, Hon. Dr. Nalinee Taveesin, former Thailand Trade representative, former Minister Attached to the Prime Minister's Office, Member of *Pheu Thai* Party of Thailand, recommended that the terms of the bureaus of the ICAPP-affiliated bodies, including the AEPF, Youth Wing, and Women's Wing, be extended until the next meeting. As aforementioned, Hon. Jan Zahradil, Co-Chairman of the AEPF, Vice-Chair of the International Trade Committee and Member of the European Parliament, also made a similar proposal that the AEPF Co-Chairmanship be extended until the next meeting. These requests were made in account of the bureaus' inability to carry out the ICAPP activities as a result of the pandemic.

In response, SC Members and the Secretariat agreed that the extension of the terms of the bureaus until the next meeting would be reasonable and practical given the current circumstances.

Reapplying for UN Observer Status

During the Meeting, Hon. Youssef Awad, Coordinator for Asia and Overseas from the Free Patriotic Movement Party of Lebanon, suggested that the ICAPP resume its previous efforts to attain observer status at the United Nations.

In response, Hon. Cho Byung-jae, Secretary-General of the ICAPP, stated that the Secretariat would review previous efforts and plan to continue discussions on this topic at future SC meetings.

On the Situation in Lebanon

During the Meeting, Hon. Fadi Fawaz, Advisor for Development Affairs to H.E. Saad Hariri, Prime Minister and Chairman of Future Movement Party, informed SC Members about the extremely difficult political and economic situation in Lebanon, referencing more than 1.5 million refugees from Syria and another 400,000 refugees from Palestine.

In this regard, he asked all SC Members, whose countries have embassies in Lebanon, to provide assistance in facilitating the creation of a task force to help the people in Lebanon.

Further Engagement in Multilateral Mechanisms

During the Meeting, Hon. Suos Yara, Vice-Chairman of the External Commission of the Cambodian People's Party (CPP), who participated in the Meeting on behalf of Hon. Khuon Sudary, Vice-Chairperson of the ICAPP SC, recommended that the ICAPP expand its institutional partnerships by engaging with multilateral organizations such as the Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM), ASEAN, Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO), and the United Nations.

Ms. Xu Min, Deputy Director General of the Asian Bureau of the International Department of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China, who participated in the Meeting on behalf of Hon. Guo Yezhou, Vice Chairperson of the ICAPP SC, also emphasized the upholding of the principles of multilateralism, extensive consultation, joint contribution, and shared benefit to promote regional peace, stability and development.

Contingency Plan for Offline Meetings

Hon. Cho Byung-jae, Secretary-General of the ICAPP, asked SC Members to share their ideas on a contingency plan for the scenario, in which in-person meetings are not possible due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Hon. Rajan Bhattarai, Chief of the International Department and Member of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Nepal (UML), suggested that the ICAPP should continue to monitor the situation closely and make a decision accordingly in a few months' time instead of making a decision now. He also proposed that, should the pandemic situation fail to improve, the GA should be postponed to next year, while some of the sideline meetings could be held online this year.

Hon. Afif Demirkiran, Deputy Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Department of *AK Parti*, stated that if the situation does not improve, his party is ready to host the 11th GA and other sideline meetings next year instead.

Appendixes

I. Documents for the Meeting

1. *Program*
2. *List of Participants*
3. *List of Speakers*
4. *Annotated Agenda*
5. *Rules of Procedure*

II. Updated List of SC Members

III. Official Letters of Appointment of New SC Members

1. *Letter of Appointment from USDP, Myanmar*
2. *Letter of Appointment from Communist Party of Nepal (UML), Nepal*
3. *Letter of Appointment from Democrat Party, Thailand*

IV. Condolence Statement on the Passing Away of Hon. Abdul Matin Khasru

V. Special Video Conference of the ICAPP Youth Wing

1. *Program*
2. *List of Participants*
3. *Statement of the ICAPP Youth Wing on Education and Social Protection Mechanisms for Youth During and After COVID-19*

VI. Special Video Conference of the ICAPP Women's Wing

1. *Program*
2. *List of Participants*
3. *Statement of the ICAPP Women's Wing on Women's Empowerment During and After COVID-19*

VII. 2nd Meeting of the Asian Cultural Council (ACC)

1. *Program*
2. *List of Participants*
3. *Phnom Penh Declaration*
4. *Congratulatory Message from H.E. Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen*
5. *Congratulatory Message from H.E. Mohammad Jusuf Kalla*
6. *Congratulatory Message from H.E. K.P. Sharma Oli*

VIII. ICAPP Work Program for the Remainder of 2021

IX. Draft Concept Paper for the 2nd Special Video Conference on the COVID-19 Pandemic

X. Statement on Myanmar by Hon. Jose de Venecia, Jr., Founder of the ICAPP and Co-Chairman of the ICAPP Standing Committee, and Hon. Cho Byung-jae, Secretary-General of the ICAPP

XI. ICAPP Newsletter (April 2021)

Appendixes

Appendix I-1

Program for the
35th Meeting of the ICAPP Standing Committee
(Online Conference, 21 April 2021)

GMT

07:00-07:03 **Opening Session**
- Opening Remarks by Hon. Jose De Venecia, Jr., Founder of the ICAPP and Co-Chairman of the ICAPP Standing Committee, former Speaker of the House of Representatives, **Philippines**

07:03-07:06 - Welcoming Remarks by Hon. Chung Eui-yong, Co-Chairman of the ICAPP Standing Committee, Minister of Foreign Affairs and former Director of the National Security Office, Republic of **Korea**

07:06-07:09 - Briefing by Hon. Cho Byung-jae, Secretary-General of the ICAPP, former Ambassador of the Republic of Korea to Malaysia and Myanmar, former Chancellor of Korea National Diplomatic Academy, Republic of **Korea**

07:09-08:35 **Plenary Session I**
- All SC Members will be allocated three (3) minutes each initially for their remarks in the order of email requests received by the ICAPP Secretariat. SC Members who did not sign up to speak will have to wait for their turns until everyone on the Speaker List has finished.

08:35-09:35 **Plenary Session II**
- After everyone on the Speaker List has finished, SC Members may have an additional two (2) minutes to comment or respond if they choose to do so.

09:35-09:38 **Closing Session**
- Conclusion by Hon. Cho Byung-jae, Secretary-General of the ICAPP, former Ambassador of the Republic of Korea to Malaysia and Myanmar, former Chancellor of Korea National Diplomatic Academy, Republic of **Korea**

09:38-09:41 - Closing Remarks by Hon. Chung Eui-yong, Co-Chairman of the ICAPP Standing Committee, Minister of Foreign Affairs and former Director of the National Security Office, Republic of **Korea**

09:41-09:44 - Closing Remarks by Hon. Jose De Venecia, Jr., Founder of the ICAPP and Co-Chairman of the ICAPP Standing Committee, former Speaker of the House of Representatives, **Philippines**

Appendix I-2

List of Participants for the
35th Meeting of the ICAPP Standing Committee
(Online Conference, 21 April 2021)

1. Members of the ICAPP Standing Committee (23)

- Hon. Ali Ahmadov, Deputy Prime Minister and Deputy Chairman of New Azerbaijan Party, **Azerbaijan**

- Hon. Suos Yara, Vice-Chairman of the External Commission of the Cambodian People's Party (CPP) and Vice-Chairman of the Commission of Foreign Affairs, International Cooperation, Information and Media of the National Assembly of Cambodia, on behalf of Hon. Khuon Sudary, Vice Chairperson of the ICAPP Standing Committee, Member of the Standing Committee of the Cambodian People's Party, and Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly of **Cambodia**

- Ms. Xu Min, Deputy Director General of the Asian Bureau of the International Department of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China, on behalf of Hon. Guo Yezhou, Vice Chairperson of the ICAPP Standing Committee and Vice Minister of the International Department of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of **China**

- Hon. Theo L. Sambuaga, Vice Chairman of the Patron Council of *Golkar* Party, former Minister of Manpower and former Minister of Housing and Settlement, **Indonesia**

- Hon. Prof. Dr. Hassan Ghafoori Fard, Founding President of the Foundation for Islamic Development, former Vice President of Iran, and Member of the Central Committee of Islamic *Motalefeh* Party, **Iran**

- Hon. Cho Jeong-sik, Member of the National Assembly from the Democratic Party of Korea, Member of the Science, ICT (Information & Communication Technologies), Broadcasting and Communications Committee, and Chairperson of the ICAPP Parliamentarians' Union in the National Assembly, Republic of **Korea**

- Hon. Youssef Awad, Coordinator for Asia and Overseas, Free Patriotic Movement Party, **Lebanon**

- Hon. Fadi Fawaz, Advisor for Development Affairs to H.E. Saad Hariri, Prime Minister and Chairman of Future Movement Party, **Lebanon**

- Hon. Dato' Seri Shahidan bin Kassim, Member of Parliament from the United Malays National Organisation (UMNO), former Minister in the Office of Prime Minister, **Malaysia**

- Hon. Datuk Chong Sin Woon, Secretary-General of the Malaysian Chinese Association, **Malaysia**

- Hon. Saikhansanaa Khurelbaatar, Advisor to the Secretary General of the Mongolian People's Party, Vice President of the Social Democratic Mongolian Youth Association, **Mongolia**

- Hon. U Tin Oo Lwin, Member of the Central Committee, Union Solidarity and Development Party (USDP), former Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, **Myanmar**

- Hon. Rajan Bhattarai, Chief of the International Department and Member of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Nepal (UML), Foreign Policy Advisor to the Prime Minister of **Nepal**

- Hon. Mushahid Hussain Sayed, Vice Chairperson and Special Rapporteur of the ICAPP Standing Committee and Chairman of the Senate Committee on Foreign Affairs, Pakistan Muslim League-N, **Pakistan**

- Hon. Jose de Venecia, Jr., Founder of the ICAPP and Co-Chairman of the ICAPP Standing Committee, former Speaker of the House of Representatives, **Philippines**

- Hon. Dr. Andrey A. Klimov, Vice Chairperson of the ICAPP Standing Committee and Deputy Secretary General of the United Russia Party on International Affairs, **Russia**

- Hon. Daya Gamage, former Minister of Primary Industries and Social Empowerment of Sri Lanka, Member of Parliament and Senior Deputy Chairman of the United National Party (UNP), **Sri Lanka**

- Hon. Dr. Nalinee Taveesin, former Thailand Trade Representative, former Minister Attached to the Prime Minister's Office, *Pheu Thai* Party, **Thailand**

- Hon. Prakob Chirakiti, former Member of Parliament and Executive Director of Democrat Party, **Thailand**

- Hon. Efkan Ala, Deputy Chairman of *AK Parti* (Justice and Development Party), Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Department of *AK Parti*, Member of Parliament of Bursa, **Turkey**

- Hon. Nguyen Thi Hoang Van, Vice Chairman of the Commission for External Relations of the Communist Party of Vietnam, on behalf of Hon. Nguyen Manh Cuong, Member of the Central Committee, Vice Chairman of the Commission for External Relations of the Communist Party of **Vietnam**

- Hon. Chung Eui-yong, Co-Chairman of the ICAPP Standing Committee and Minister of Foreign Affairs, former Director of the National Security Office of the Republic of **Korea**

- Hon. Cho Byung-jae, Secretary-General of the ICAPP, former Ambassador of the Republic of Korea to Malaysia and Myanmar, former Chancellor of Korea National Diplomatic Academy, Republic of **Korea**

2. Accompanying Delegates (17)

- ***AK Parti* (2)**
- Mr. Afif Demirkiran, Deputy Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Department of *AK Parti*
- Mrs. Sevgi Hajdari, Expert at the Foreign Affairs Department of *AK Parti*

- **Cambodian People's Party (CPP) (3)**
- Hon. Khiev Sambat, Member of the Central Committee of the CPP and Member of the Strategic Working Group of the External Commission of the CPP
- Ms. LIM Sreynith, Head of the ICAPP-ACC Working Group of the CPP
- Mr. Ly Chanraisey, Member of the ICAPP-ACC Working Group of the CPP

- ***Golkar* Party (4)**
- Hon. Ambassador Iris Indira Murti, Member of the Advisory Board of *Golkar* Party
- Mr. Lucky Ali Moerfiqin, Member of the Election Winning Body of *Golkar* Party
- Ms. Diana Widyastuti, Member of the Central Executive Board of *Golkar* Party
- Ms. Chandra Kusuma Dewi, Member of the Women's Wing of *Golkar* Party

- **ICAPP Secretariat (5)**
- Ms. Park Hyun-ryang, Director
- Ms. Jeong Sang-myoung, Administrative Officer
- Ms. Lee Seojin, Program Director
- Mr. Kim Deok-su, Program Officer
- Ms. Kim Hee Young, Program Officer

- **New Azerbaijan Party (2)**
- Hon. Sevinj Fataliyeva, Member of Parliament and Head of the International Relations Department of New Azerbaijan Party
- Ms. Hulya Mammadli, Chief Advisor of the International Department of the New Azerbaijan Party

- **United Russia Party (1)**
- Ms. Valeriya Gorokhova, Head of the International Relations Department of United Russia Party

3. Observers (1)

- **Asia-Europe Political Forum (AEPF) (1)**
- Hon. Jan Zahradil, Co-Chairman of the AEPF, Vice-Chair of the International Trade Committee and Member of the European Parliament, **Czech Republic**

Appendix I-3

List of Speakers for the
35th Meeting of the ICAPP Standing Committee

(Online Conference, 21 April 2021)

1. Hon. Dr. Nalinee Taveesin, former Thailand Trade Representative, former Minister Attached to the Prime Minister's Office, *Pheu Thai* Party, **Thailand**

2. Hon. Youssef Awad, Coordinator for Asia and Overseas, Free Patriotic Movement Party, **Lebanon**

3. Hon. Suos Yara, Vice-Chairman of the External Commission of the Cambodian People's Party (CPP) and Vice-Chairman of the Commission of Foreign Affairs, International Cooperation, Information and Media of the National Assembly of Cambodia, on behalf of Hon. Khuon Sudary, Vice-Chairperson of the ICAPP Standing Committee, Chairperson of the ACC, Member of the Standing Committee of the CPP, and Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly of **Cambodia**

4. Ms. Xu Min, Deputy Director General of the Asian Bureau of the International Department of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China, on behalf of Hon. Guo Yezhou, Vice Chairperson of the ICAPP Standing Committee and Vice Minister of the International Department of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of **China**

5. Hon. Rajan Bhattarai, Chief of the International Department and Member of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Nepal (UML), Foreign Policy Advisor to the Prime Minister of **Nepal**

6. Hon. Cho Jeong-sik, Member of the National Assembly from the Democratic Party of Korea, Member of the Science, ICT (Information & Communication Technologies), Broadcasting and Communications Committee, and Chairperson of the ICAPP Parliamentarians' Union in the National Assembly, Republic of **Korea**

7. Hon. Ali Ahmadov, Deputy Prime Minister and Deputy Chairman of the New Azerbaijan Party, **Azerbaijan**

8. Hon. Dr. Andrey A. Klimov, Vice Chairperson of the ICAPP Standing Committee and Deputy Secretary General of the United Russia Party on International Affairs, **Russia**

9. Hon. Fadi Fawaz, Advisor for Development Affairs to H.E. Saad Hariri, Prime Minister and Chairman of Future Movement Party, **Lebanon**

10. Hon. U Tin Oo Lwin, Member of the Central Committee, Union Solidarity and Development Party (USDP), former Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, **Myanmar**

11. Hon. Dato' Seri Shahidan bin Kassim, Member of Parliament from the United Malays National Organisation (UMNO), former Minister in the Office of Prime Minister, **Malaysia**

12. Hon. Efkan Ala, Deputy Chairman of *AK Parti* (Justice and Development Party), Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Department of *AK Parti*, Member of Parliament of Bursa, **Turkey**

13. Hon. Prof. Dr. Hassan Ghafoori Fard, Founding President of the Foundation for Islamic Development, former Vice President of Iran, and Member of the Central Committee of Islamic *Motalefeh* Party, **Iran**

14. Hon. Theo L. Sambuaga, Vice Chairman of the Patron Council of *Golkar* Party, former Minister of Manpower and former Minister of Housing and Settlement, **Indonesia**

15. Hon. Mushahid Hussain Sayed, Vice Chairperson and Special Rapporteur of the ICAPP Standing Committee and Chairman of the Senate Committee on Foreign Affairs, Pakistan Muslim League-N, **Pakistan**

16. Hon. Saikhansanaa Khurelbaatar, Advisor to the Secretary General of the Mongolian People's Party, Vice President of the Social Democratic Mongolian Youth Association, **Mongolia**

17. Hon. Nguyen Thi Hoang Van, Vice Chairman of the Commission for External Relations of the Communist Party of Vietnam, on behalf of Hon. Nguyen Manh Cuong, Member of the Central Committee, Vice Chairman of the Commission for External Relations of the Communist Party of **Vietnam**

18. Hon. Prakob Chirakiti, former Member of Parliament and former Executive Director of Democrat Party, **Thailand**

19. Hon. Daya Gamage, former Minister of Primary Industries and Social Empowerment of Sri Lanka, Member of Parliament and Senior Deputy Chairman of the United National Party (UNP), **Sri Lanka**

20. Hon. Jan Zahradil, Co-Chairman of the AEPF, Vice-Chair of the International Trade Committee and Member of the European Parliament, **Czech Republic**

Appendix I-4

Annotated Agenda
for the 35th Meeting of the ICAPP Standing Committee
(Online Conference, 21 April 2021)

I. Issues Relating to the ICAPP Standing Committee (SC)

New Members of the SC

As was informed by the ICAPP Update 21-04 on 22 February 2021, Hon. U Tin Oo Lwin, Member of the Central Committee of Union Solidarity and Development Party (USDP) and former Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs from 2011 to 2016, has replaced Hon. U Wunna Maung Lwin as the representative of USDP in the ICAPP SC. Hon. U Wunna Maung Lwin has been appointed as the Union Minister of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in the State Administration Council in Myanmar as of 1 February 2021.

As was informed by the ICAPP Update 21-06 on 25 March 2021, the party which was previously known as Nepal Communist Party changed its name to Communist Party of Nepal (UML). In addition, Hon. Dr. Rajan Bhattarai, Foreign Policy Advisor to the Prime Minister of Nepal and Central Committee Member of the Communist Party of Nepal (UML), has replaced Hon. Jhala Nath Khanal, former Prime Minister of Nepal, as the party representative to the ICAPP SC.

As was informed by the ICAPP Update 21-11 on 19 April 2021, Hon. Prakob Chirakiti, former Member of Parliament and former Executive Director of Democrat Party, Thailand, has replaced Hon. Chamni Sakdiset, Advisor to H.E. Jurin Laksanawisit, Party Leader of Democrat Party, and Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Commerce of Thailand.
As was mentioned during the 34th SC meeting, in May 2020, the Secretariat was informed that Hon. Anand Sharma had replaced former SC Member, Hon. Karan Singh as the new Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Department of the Indian National Congress (INC). The Secretariat has reached out to the INC for an official letter confirming the appointment of Hon. Anand Sharma as the new representative to the ICAPP SC. In response, the INC notified the Secretariat that the nominee may change upon internal discussions. The Secretariat is waiting to hear back on INC's final nomination.

The updated list of SC Members is attached as ***Appendix I***.

On the Passing Away of Hon. Abdul Matin Khasru

As was informed by the ICAPP Update 21-10 on 16 April 2021, Hon. Abdul Matin Khasru, Member of Parliament and Member of the Presidium of the Bangladeh *Awami* League and former Minister of Law and Justice of Bangladesh, passed away in Dhaka, Bangladesh on 14

April 2021. A condolence statement was issued by Hon. Jose de Venecia, Jr., Founder of the ICAPP and Co-Chairman of the ICAPP SC, Hon. Chung Eui-yong, Co-Chairman of the ICAPP SC, and Hon. Cho Byung-jae, Secretary-General of the ICAPP. The statement expressed deep sorrow and condolences at the news and highlighted Hon. Abdul Matin Khasru's achievements as a statesman par excellence who dedicated himself to public service and the pursuit of justice. Also, it underlined his positive contributions to the ICAPP in promoting dialogue and cooperation among political parties in Asia. The Secretariat is willing to forward any messages of condolences from ICAPP Members to Hon. Abdul Matin Khasru's family and the Bangladesh *Awami* League office.

The condolence statement is attached as ***Appendix II***.

Next Meeting of the SC

The next SC meeting is to be held in Istanbul, Turkey, back-to-back with the 11th General Assembly (GA), which was previously scheduled for 17-20 September 2021, but expected to be rescheduled to the second part of October based on the *AK Parti*'s new proposal.

II. Review of the ICAPP Activities Since the 34th SC Meeting in November 2020

Special Video Conference of the ICAPP Youth Wing: Education and Social Protection Mechanisms for Youth During and After COVID-19

The Special Video Conference of the ICAPP Youth Wing was held online over the Zoom platform on 3 February 2021. The conference was attended by 33 political parties from 24 countries.

The 1st session of the conference focused on the topic of "Enabling continuity in learning for youth" and the 2nd session, on "Expanding social protection mechanisms for young people who have lost their jobs or experienced income reductions." The sessions began with keynote presentations by experts from international organizations: Ms. Jenelle Babb, Regional Advisor, Education for Health and Wellbeing, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) Bangkok, presented in the 1st session, and Mr. Markus Ruck, Senior Specialist on Social Protection, International Labour Organization (ILO) Decent Work Team for East and South East Asia and the Pacific, spoke in the 2nd session.

The participants discussed the disruptions in youth education and employment as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. They called for a coherent response system, and stressed the need for social protection measures catered to the marginalized youth.

The program, list of participants and statement from the Special Video Conference of the ICAPP Youth Wing are attached as ***Appendixes III-1, III-2 and III-3***.

Special Video Conference of the ICAPP Women's Wing: Women's Empowerment During and After COVID-19

The Special Video Conference of the ICAPP Women's Wing was held online over the Zoom platform on 24 February 2021. The conference was attended by 32 political parties from 22 countries.

The 1st session of the conference focused on the topic of "Women's economic insecurity" and the 2nd session, on "Gender-based violence." The sessions began with keynote presentations by experts from international organizations: Ms. Maria Holtsberg, Regional Advisor for Humanitarian Action and Disaster Reduction at the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women), Regional Office of Asia and the Pacific, presented in the 1st session, and Ms. Cai Cai, Chief of the Gender Equality and Social Inclusion Section, Social Development Division of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP), spoke in the 2nd session.

The participants acknowledged the economic challenges faced by women and noted the severity of the rise in gender-based violence. They called for immediate policy measures to improve women's economic stability and equip more efficient emergency response systems to prevent violence against women.

The program, list of participants and statement from the Special Video Conference of the ICAPP Women's Wing are attached as ***Appendixes IV-1, IV-2 and IV-3***.

2nd Meeting of the Asian Cultural Council (ACC): Harnessing Culture and Innovation for Shared Prosperity During COVID-19 and Beyond

The 2nd Meeting of the ACC was held online over the Zoom platform on 19 March 2021. The meeting was attended by 25 political parties from 19 countries.
The 1st session of the conference focused on the topic of "Investment in culture and creativity" and the 2nd session, on "Promotion of culture-innovation nexus." The sessions began with keynote presentations by experts from international organizations: Mr. Sardar Umar Alam, Head of Office and UNESCO Representative to Cambodia, and Dr. Piseth Keo, Vice-President of Asian Vision Institute (AVI), presented in the 1st session. Ms. Sandrine Capelle-Manuel, Multi-Country Office Director of the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS) in Cambodia, and Dr. Masanori Nagaoka, Programme Specialist for Culture at the UNESCO Office in Phnom Penh, spoke in the 2nd session.
On the occasion of the conference, H.E. Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen, Prime Minister of Cambodia and Honorary Founding Chairman of the ACC, H.E. Mohammad Jusuf Kalla, former Vice-President of Indonesia, and H.E. K.P. Sharma Oli, Prime Minister of Nepal, sent congratulatory messages to the participants and wished them a successful meeting.
The participants discussed the current situation of the cultural and creative industries (CCI). They expressed their commitment to policy measures and investments in infrastructure that would enable CCI sectors to successfully adapt to the evolving demands for cultural products.

The program, list of participants and declaration from the 2nd Meeting of the ACC are attached as ***Appendixes V-1, V-2 and V-3***. The congratulatory messages from H.E. Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen, H.E. Mohammad Jusuf Kalla, and H.E. K.P. Sharma Oli are attached as ***Appendixes V-4, V-5, and V-6***.

ICAPP Work Program for 2021

The COVID-19 pandemic continues to limit in-person activities of the ICAPP. Given such circumstances, the SC needs to revisit the ICAPP work program for the remainder of 2021:

a. *2nd Special Video Conference on the COVID-19 Pandemic (Online Conference, May 2021)*
b. *6th Meeting of the ICAPP Youth Wing and 7th Meeting of the ICAPP Women's Wing (Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, September 2021)*
c. *11th GA and the "20th Founding Anniversary" Event (Istanbul, Turkey, October 2021)*
d. *36th Meeting of the ICAPP SC (Istanbul, Turkey, October 2021)*
e. *4th Trilateral Meeting among the ICAPP-COPPPAL-CAPP (Istanbul, Turkey, October 2021)*
f. *5th Meeting of the ICAPP Media Forum (Istanbul, Turkey, October 2021)*
g. *2nd Meeting of the ICAPP Tourism Promotion and Inter-City Cooperation (TOPIC) Council (Istanbul, Turkey, October 2021)*
h. *4th Asia-Europe Political Forum (AEPF) (Prague, Czech Republic, November 2021)*
i. *Special Conference on Security and Cooperation: Role of Political Parties (Baku, Azerbaijan, 26 November or 3 December 2021)*

The ICAPP work program for the remainder of 2021 is attached as ***Appendix VI***.

III. Preparations for the 11th GA and Other Joint Meetings

Plans for the 11th GA and the "20th Founding Anniversary Event," 36th SC Meeting, ICAPP Media Forum, Trilateral Meeting of the ICAPP-COPPPAL-CAPP, and 2nd Meeting of the ICAPP Tourism Promotion and Inter-City Cooperation (TOPIC) Council

During the 34th SC Meeting, the *AK Parti* renewed its offer to host the 11th GA in Istanbul, Turkey during 17-20 September 2021. The party also maintained its offer to organize the ICAPP Media Forum, the Trilateral Meeting of the ICAPP-*COPPPAL*-CAPP, and the 36th SC Meeting as joint meetings. In addition, the *AK Parti* expressed its interest in hosting the next TOPIC Council Meeting together with the 11th GA if the Council of African Political Parties (CAPP) can no longer host it in Tunis, Tunisia. Since the 34th SC Meeting, the CAPP has not renewed its commitment to host the next TOPIC Council Meeting. As such, through a letter dated 18 January 2021, the Secretariat made a proposal to the *AK Parti* to host the next TOPIC Council Meeting on the sidelines of the 11th GA.

Also, at the last SC Meeting, the United Russia Party raised concerns about the tentative dates for the 11th GA. Since the State *Duma* elections are taking place in mid-September, it mentioned that it will be difficult for the Russian political parties to attend. In this regard, the Secretariat encouraged the United Russia Party and the *AK Parti* to have a discussion on this matter.

Through a separate message to the Secretariat on 12 April 2021, the *AK Parti* accepted the Secretariat's proposal to host the next TOPIC Council Meeting on the sidelines of the 11th GA. Also, it expressed its willingness to host the 11th GA and other joint meetings in the second part of October so that more ICAPP Members may be able to attend. The *AK Parti* agreed to provide further details on its new proposal to SC Members during the 35th SC Meeting.

SC Members previously supported the idea of organizing an event at the 11th GA to commemorate the ICAPP's "20th Founding Anniversary." In this regard, at the last SC Meeting, an SC Member suggested a peace lecture honoring Hon. Jose de Venecia, Jr., Founder of the ICAPP and Co-Chairman of the SC. The same SC Member also proposed the idea of inviting a keynote speaker such as the Director-General of the World Health Organization (WHO), Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, to speak about the challenges for Asia during and after the COVID-19 pandemic.

IV. Activities of the ICAPP-Affiliated Bodies

The 4th Meeting of the Asia-Europe Political Forum (AEPF)

As was informed by the ICAPP Update 20-11, the 4th AEPF Meeting in Prague, Czech Republic was postponed to 21-23 May 2021 after consultations with the Bureau of the European Conservatives and Reformists Group (ECR) and the SC Members. Since then, the Secretariat has continued to communicate with the ECR on future plans for the meeting.

On 26 March 2021, a video call was organized between Hon. Cho Byung-jae, Secretary-General of the ICAPP, and Hon. Jan Zahradil, Co-Chairman of the AEPF, Vice-Chair of the International Trade Committee and Member of the European Parliament. During the meeting, Hon. Zahradil proposed to postpone the 4th AEPF Meeting until the 1st or 2nd week of November 2021, given the unfavorable situation in Europe due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Hon. Cho acknowledged the difficulties of hosting an in-person conference in May, and agreed to monitor the situation further. In addition, he invited Hon. Zahradil to participate in the 35th SC Meeting to provide brief updates to the SC Members on potential plans for the next AEPF meeting.

During the call, Hon. Zahradil also raised the issue of extending his Co-Chairmanship until the next AEPF Meeting, as he has been unable to carry out the AEPF activities due to the pandemic. The Secretariat is of the opinion that it would be practical and appropriate to extend the term of the AEPF Bureau until the end of 2021 in light of the current circumstances.

The 6th Meeting of the ICAPP Youth Wing and the 7th Meeting of the ICAPP Women's Wing

During the 34th SC meeting, the Mongolian People's Party renewed its offer to host the 6th Meeting of the ICAPP Youth Wing and the 7th Meeting of the Women's Wing in Ulaanbaatar,

Mongolia in October 2021. Since then, the party has proposed 6-8 September 2021 as the new dates for these meetings through separate communication to the Secretariat.

V. ICAPP Special Conferences

The 2nd Special Video Conference on the COVID-19 Pandemic

During the 34th SC Meeting, SC Members agreed to organize a follow-up conference on the COVID-19 pandemic given the importance of international cooperation during the crisis. As such, an SC Member suggested organizing the 2nd Special Video Conference on the COVID-19 Pandemic in March 2021, which marked one year since the global outbreak of the pandemic. However, due to the logistical difficulties of scheduling multiple ICAPP meetings in the first quarter, the Secretariat had to postpone the conference to May 2021. After receiving feedback from SC Members at the last SC meeting, the following tentative topics have been chosen for the video conference:

1. Building an enhanced global emergency response system, including the effective procurement and distribution of vaccines
2. Achieving an inclusive global recovery across all countries and groups of society

The updated draft concept paper of the 2nd Special Video Conference on the COVID-19 Pandemic is attached as ***Appendix VII***.

Special Conference on Security and Cooperation: Role of Political Parties

During the 34th SC meeting, the New Azerbaijan Party offered to host a Special Conference on Peace and Cooperation, "Peace and Cooperation Dialogue," in Baku, Azerbaijan in the middle of 2021.

Since then, the New Azerbaijan Party has suggested 26 November or 3 December 2021 as the new dates for the conference through separate communication to the Secretariat. The party has also proposed to rename the conference to the "Special Conference on Security and Cooperation: Role of Political Parties."

VI. Other Issues

Political Situation in Myanmar

As was informed by the ICAPP Update 21-02 on 22 February 2021, given the urgent situation in Myanmar, a statement was issued by Hon. Jose de Venecia, Jr., Founder of the ICAPP and Co-Chairman of the ICAPP SC and Hon. Cho Byung-jae, Secretary-General of the ICAPP. The statement called for a restoration of democracy and stability as well as a resolution of tensions

among all parties through peaceful dialogue. Lastly, it reaffirmed strong support to the people of Myanmar in their pursuit of democracy, peace, and the rule of law.
The statement on Myanmar by Hon. Jose de Venecia, Jr., Founder of the ICAPP and Co-Chairman of the ICAPP SC, and Hon. Cho Byung-jae, Secretary-General of the ICAPP, is attached as ***Appendix VIII***.

Launch of the ICAPP Newsletter

The Secretariat newly launched the ICAPP newsletter this month. The newsletter will be distributed amongst the ICAPP Members, conference participants and experts in the public and international affairs sectors on a quarterly basis. The Secretariat believes this initiative will further strengthen the ICAPP network and keep the ICAPP Members up-to-date on new developments within the organization. It is also hopeful that the newsletter will serve as an effective communication channel with external groups such as international organizations, governments, media, NGOs, think tanks and all other parties who are interested in engaging with the ICAPP.

The ICAPP newsletter issued this month (April 2021) is attached as ***Appendix IX***.

Appendixes

- ***I. Updated List of SC Members***
- ***II. Condolence Statement on the Passing Away of Hon. Abdul Matin Khasru***
- ***III. Special Video Conference of the ICAPP Youth Wing***
  1. *Program*
  2. *List of Participants*
  3. *Statement of the ICAPP Youth Wing on Education and Social Protection Mechanisms for Youth During and After COVID-19*
- ***IV. Special Video Conference of the ICAPP Women's Wing***
  1. *Program*
  2. *List of Participants*
  3. *Statement of the ICAPP Women's Wing on Women's Empowerment During and After COVID-19*
- ***V. 2nd Meeting of the Asian Cultural Council (ACC)***
  1. *Program*
  2. *List of Participants*
  3. *Phnom Penh Declaration*
  4. *Congratulatory Message from H.E. Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen*
  5. *Congratulatory Message from H.E. Mohammad Jusuf Kalla*
  6. *Congratulatory Message from H.E. K.P. Sharma Oli*
- ***VI. ICAPP Work Program for the Remainder of 2021***
- ***VII. Draft Concept Paper for the 2nd Special Video Conference on the COVID-19 Pandemic***
- ***VIII. Statement on Myanmar by Hon. Jose de Venecia, Jr., Founder of the ICAPP and Co-Chairman of the ICAPP Standing Committee, and Hon. Cho Byung-jae, Secretary-General of the ICAPP***
- ***IX. ICAPP Newsletter (April 2021)***

Appendix I-5

Rules of Procedure for the 35th Meeting of the ICAPP Standing Committee

Due to COVID-19, the 35th Meeting of the ICAPP Standing Committee ("SC") will be held online via teleconferencing. The meeting will be convened via Zoom for 3 hours from 7am to 10am GMT (10am-1pm Turkey Time; 1pm-4pm Bangladesh Standard Time; 4pm-7pm Korea Standard Time) on Wednesday, 21 April 2021.

Given the time difference amongst participants and the remote setting, the Secretariat inevitably needs to consider more time constraints than the in-person SC meetings. As such, the Secretariat would like to ask all participants to review the draft rules of procedure outlined below.

Structure

- The meeting will begin and conclude with remarks from both the Chairman and Co-Chairman of the ICAPP SC.
- The Secretary-General will provide an introduction of agenda items after the opening remarks. At the end of the meeting, the Secretary-General will provide a final recap to summarize the discussions of the meeting.
- The agenda will not be discussed item by item. Instead, each SC Member will have one opportunity to make comments on any agenda item(s) of their choice within the allocated time limit (please see "Time Limit per SC Member" for details).
- After the meeting, the ICAPP Secretariat will prepare and circulate draft Conclusions of the meeting.
- There will be no recess throughout the meeting.

Pre-Requisites for Participation

- In order to arrange orderly proceedings within the limited amount of time, all SC Members who would like to speak are kindly requested to notify the Secretariat in advance by email at secretariat@theicapp.org.
- The list of speakers ("Speaker List"), which will be in the order of email requests received, will be circulated by the Secretariat in advance of the meeting. Please note that SC Members who did not sign up to speak will have to wait for their turns until everyone on the Speaker List has finished.
- Participants who would like to have the text or summary of their remarks displayed on the screen during their presentation are requested to send the scripts to the Secretariat at secretariat@theicapp.org by 19 April 2021.

Time Limit per SC Member

- SC Members will be allocated three minutes each for their initial remarks.
- After everyone on the Speaker List has finished, SC Members may have an additional two minutes for further comments or responses to other SC Members' remarks.

- When an SC Member's initial presentation exceeds the three-minute time limit, the additional time spent will be deducted from the two additional minutes reserved for his/her second presentation.
- If an SC Member does not use all of the three minutes for the first presentation, the unused time will not be added to the time limit for the second presentation. He/she will still be allocated two minutes for the second presentation.
- Each SC Member should not exceed a total of five minutes across both presentations. If an SC Member exceeds a total of five minutes, the microphone will be muted automatically.
- A timer will be set on the screen for each SC Member: for the initial presentation, the timer will indicate how much time has elapsed and for the second presentation, it will indicate the remaining time.
- Given the time constraints, only three Observers, Asia-Europe Political Forum (AEPF), Council of African Political Parties (CAPP) and Permanent Conference of Political Parties in Latin America and Caribbean (*COPPPAL*) will be invited to join the meeting. Observers will have one opportunity to speak for three minutes each.

Working Language

- The meeting will be conducted in English in accordance with Article 15 of the ICAPP Charter.
- Please note that SC Members are responsible for their own interpreters should they require such services. However, the Secretariat would like to remind Members that the same time limit will be applied to all participants regardless of their use of interpreter services. As such, simultaneous rather than consecutive interpretation is recommended.

Appendix II

Updated List of SC Members

As of 20 April 2021

- Liberal Party, **Australia**
- Labour Party, **Australia**
- Hon. Ali Javad Ahmadov, Deputy Prime Minister, and Deputy Chairman and Executive Secretary of the *Yeni* (New) Azerbaijan Party, **Azerbaijan**
- Bangladesh *Awami* League, **Bangladesh**
- Hon. Rahgir Almahe Ershad, Member of the Standing Committee on Ministry of Health and Family Welfare in Bangladesh National Parliament, Joint Secretary of the Central Committee of the *Jatiya* Party**, Bangladesh**
- Hon. Khuon Sudary, Vice-Chairperson of the ICAPP Standing Committee, Member of the Standing Committee of the Cambodian People's Party (CPP), and Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly of **Cambodia**
- HRH Samdech Krom Preah Norodom Ranariddh, former First Prime Minister, former Chairman of the National Assembly, and President of *FUNCINPEC* Party, **Cambodia**
- Hon. Guo Yezhou, Vice Chairperson of the ICAPP Standing Committee, Vice Minister of the International Department of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of **China**
- *Bharatiya Janata* Party (*BJP*), **India**
- Indian National Congress, **India**
- Hon. Charles Honoris, Deputy Chairman of Inter-Parliamentary Cooperation Body of Indonesian Democratic Party of Struggle (*PDI-P*), Member of Parliament in Commission 1 (Foreign Affairs, Security and Defense), **Indonesia**
- Hon. Theo L. Sambuaga, Vice Chairman, Patron Council of the *Golkar* Party (Party of Functional Groups), former Minister of Man Power, former Minister of Housing and Settlement, and former Chairman of Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee of the House of Representatives, **Indonesia**
- Hon. Hassan Ghafoori Fard, Founding President of Foundation for Islamic Development, former Vice President and Member of Central Committee of Islamic *Motalefeh* Party, **Iran**
- Hon. Mohammad Reza Sarmadi, Deputy Secretary General of International Relations and Member of the Central Committee of Islamic Labour Party, **Iran**

- Liberal Democratic Party/*Komeito* Party, **Japan**

- Democratic Party For the People (DPFP), **Japan**

- Hon. Bauyrzhan Baibek, First Deputy Chairman of the *Nur Otan* (Democratic People's) Party, **Kazakhstan**

- Hon. Cho Jeong-sik, Member of the National Assembly from the Democratic Party of Korea, Member of the Science, ICT (Information & Communication Technologies), Broadcasting and Communications Committee, and Chairperson of the ICAPP Parliamentarian's Union in the National Assembly, Republic of **Korea**

- Hon. Ha Tae-keung, Member of the National Assembly from the People Power Party, Member of the National Defense Committee and Vice Chairperson of the ICAPP Parliamentarians' Union in the National Assembly, Republic of **Korea**

- Hon. Youssef Awad, Coordinator for Asia and Overseas of Free Patriotic Movement Party, **Lebanon**

- Hon. Fadi Fawaz, Advisor for Development Affairs to Hon. Saad Hariri, Prime Minister and Chairman of Future Movement Party, **Lebanon**

- Hon. Dato' Seri Dr. Shahidan bin Kassim, Member of Parliament and former Minister in the Office of Prime Minister, United Malays National Organisation (UMNO), **Malaysia**

- Hon. Datuk Chong Sin Woon, Secretary-General of Malaysian Chinese Association (MCA), **Malaysia**

- Democratic Party of **Mongolia**

- Hon. Saikhansanaa Khurelbaatar, Advisor to Secretary General of Mongolian People's Party, Vice President of Social Democratic Mongolian Youth Association, **Mongolia**

- Hon. U Tin Oo Lwin, Member of the Central Committee of the Union Solidarity and Development Party (UMNO) and former Deputy Minister of Ministry of Foreign Affairs, **Myanmar**

- Hon. U Mahn Johnny, former Member of Parliament and Member of the Central Committee, National League for Democracy (NLD), **Myanmar**

- Hon. Dr. Rajan Bhattarai, Chief of the International Department and Member of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Nepal (UML), Foreign Policy Advisor to the Prime Minister of **Nepal**

- Hon. Sujata Koirala, Co-Chairperson of the ICAPP Women's Wing, former Deputy Prime Minister and former Minister of Foreign Affairs, Member of Parliament and Central Committee of the Nepali Congress Party, **Nepal**

- Hon. Mushahid Hussain Sayed, Vice Chairman and Special Rapporteur of the ICAPP Standing Committee, Chairman of Senate Committee on Foreign Affairs, Pakistan Muslim League-*Nawaz* (PML-*N*), **Pakistan**

- Hon. Jose De Venecia, Jr., Founder of the ICAPP and Co-Chairman of the ICAPP Standing Committee, former Speaker of the House of Representatives, **Philippines**

- Hon. Dr. Andrey A. Klimov, Vice Chairperson of the ICAPP Standing Committee and Deputy Secretary General of the United Russia Party on International Affairs, **Russia**

- Hon. Daya Gamage, former Minister of Primary Industries and Social Empowerment of Sri Lanka, Member of Parliament and Senior Deputy Chairman of the United National Party (UNP), **Sri Lanka**

- Hon. Dilan Perara, former State Minister of Highways, Member of Parliament from the Sri Lanka *Podujana Peramuna* (SLPP), **Sri Lanka**

- Hon. Dr. Nalinee Taveesin, Co-Chairperson of ICAPP Women's Wing, former Thailand Trade Representative and former Minister Attached to Prime Minister's Office, *Pheu Thai* Party, **Thailand**

- Hon. Prakob Chirakiti, former Executive Director of the Democrat Party and former Member of Parliament, **Thailand**

- Hon. Efkan Ala, Deputy Chairman of the Justice and Development Party (*AK Parti*) and Chairman for Foreign Affairs of the Party, Member of Parliament for Bursa, former Minister of the Interior of **Turkey**

- Hon. Nguyen Manh Cuong, Vice Chairman for External Relations of the Central Committee, Communist Party of Vietnam, **Vietnam**

- Hon. Chung Eui-yong, Co-Chairman of the ICAPP Standing Committee and Minister of Foreign Affairs, former Director of the National Security, Republic of **Korea**

- Hon. Cho Byung-jae, Secretary-General of the ICAPP, former Ambassador of Republic of Korea to Malaysia and Myanmar, former Chancellor of Korea National Diplomatic Academy, Republic of **Korea**

Appendix III-1

Union Solidarity and Development Party
Corner of Yarza Thingaha Road and C Road, Land Plot No. (5)
Dakhina Thiri Myo Thit, Nay Pyi Taw
Republic of The Union of Myanmar

Phone - 067 419253
email - admin@usdp.org.mm
Fax - 067 419271
Website - www.usdp.org.mm

No.10/2021 Date: 22 February 2021

H.E. Cho Byung-jae

General Secretary of the ICAPP

Seoul, Korea

On the behlaf of the USDP, we would like to extend the assurances of our highest consideration to ICAPP for the endeavours to enhance and strengthen the dialogue and cooperation between the ICAPP members.

We also want to inform you that H.E. U Wunna Maung Lwin, member of ICAPP's Standing Committee, has been assigned as the Union Minister of Ministry of Foreign Affairs in the State Administration Concil in Myanmar.

We would like to replace H.E. U Tin Oo Lwin, Member of Central Committee of USDP and Former Deputy Minister of Ministry of Foreign Affairs in USDP Government tenure (2011-2016), to succeed in ICAPP Standing Committee as the representative of the USDP.

We hereby would like to inform you that H.E. U Tin Oo Lwin is to be the new ICAPP Standing Committee Member of ICAPP on behalf of the USDP.

Attached is the curriculum vitae of H.E. U Tin Oo Lwin.

Union Solidarity and Development Party
No. 10/2021
Date 22/2/2021
International Relations

With best regards

Central Executive Committee
Union Solidarity and Development Party
In Myanmar

Appendix III-2

नेपाल कम्युनिष्ट पार्टी (एमाले)

Communist Party of Nepal (UML)

केन्द्रीय कार्यालय / Central Office

March 23, 2021

To,
The Secretary General
ICAPP Secretariat
Seoul, Republic of Korea

At the outset, I would like to extend warms greetings and best wishes to you and the entire team of ICAPP Standing Committee and the members of the Secretariat.

As we did not have opportunity to frequently communicate during the COVID 19 situation, I hope all our friends represented in the ICAPP are doing well in their respective countries. The pandemic emerged like a black swan and impacted the entire world as the most formidable public health challenge ever experienced in our lifetime. How is the COVID -19 situation there in the Republic of Korea these days? I hope that with the combination of measures that the ROK has been successfully deploying, the situation must have come under control and the life must be gradually returning to the normalcy.

Here in Nepal, the situation was no different than everywhere else. However, with the swift measures, both preventive and treatment, undertaken right from the beginning, we were largely able to contain the virus. Through strengthening of health system, building of health-related infrastructures and enforcement of containment measures well in time, we were able to significantly save the lives of the people and protect the sources of their livelihoods. With rolling out of the vaccines well in time, we hope the impact will gradually lessen and we would return to normalcy soon.

Excellency,

I am writing today to inform you and through you to the Secretariat and the entire team of the ICAPP Standing Committee Members about the change of the name of my political party as the **Communist Party of Nepal (UML)** which was previously known as Nepal Communist Party. With this change in the name of the party as per the laws of Nepal, all communications to our party henceforth may please kindly be addressed as the Communist Party of Nepal (UML) instead of Nepal Communist Party. I also request the ICAPP Secretariat to inform of this change to all the members of the Secretariat as well as all political parties in Asia affiliated with the ICAPP and place on Secretariat's record of this change accordingly.

Dhumbarahi, Kathmandu, Nepal, Phone: +977 1 4378055, 4378090, Fax: +977 1 4015980, PO Box No. 5471, Email: office@cpnuml.org, Website: www.cpnuml.org

नेपाल कम्युनिष्ट पार्टी (एमाले)
Communist Party of Nepal (UML)
केन्द्रीय कार्यालय / Central Office

Likewise, with the change in the name of the party, we have also decided to change the ICAPP Standing Committee Member representing our Party. Henceforth, Dr. Rajan Bhattarai, Foreign Policy Advisor to the Prime Minister of Nepal and Central Committee Member of the Party, has been designated as the official representative of our party to the ICAPP. He will replace Hon. Mr. Jhala Nath Khanal with immediate effect. I also request you to kindly direct all communications to Dr. Rajan Bhattarai from now onwards. He will represent the party and maintain necessary communications with ICAPP on behalf of the Communist Party of Nepal (UML). Contact details of Dr. Rajan Bhattarai are:

Email: rajanbha@gmail.com
Cell: +977-9851100456

Communist Party of Nepal (UML) attaches high importance to its fruitful relations with the ICAPP Secretariat and all the affiliated political parties to it.

I look forward to hearing from you soon.
Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

K P Sharma Oli
President
Communist Party of Nepal (UML)
and the Prime Minister of Nepal

Dhumbarahi, Kathmandu, Nepal, Phone: +977 1 4378055, 4378090, Fax: +977 1 4015980, PO Box No. 5471, Email: office@cpnuml.org, Website: www.cpnuml.org

Appendix III-3

ประชาธิปัตย์
DEMOCRAT PARTY

No. 64900376/2021

16 April 2021

H.E. Mr. Cho Byung-Jae,
Secretary-General of the ICAPP
ICAPP Secretariat
Rm. 911 Doryeom Building, Saemunan-ro 5 gil 37,
Jongro-gu, Seoul, Korea

Subject: Nomination of the New Representative of the DP

Dear H.E. Mr. Cho Byung-Jae,

I thank you very much for your letter dated 13 April 2021 concerning the above-mentioned subject. I must apologize for not having made clear in our letter of 9 April 2021 as to who is the main representative of the Democrat Party of Thailand and who is the alternate in case the main representative cannot fulfill his obligations.

We therefore confirm the following:

1. Hon. Dr. Prakob Chirakiti shall be the main Representative of the DP to the Standing Committee.
2. Hon. Dr. Pimrapee Phanwichatikul shall be the Alternate and a participant of the DP to other ICAPP activities.

It is my hope that you find the above is satisfactory. We enclosed herewith the CVs of both representatives of the DP for your information and further action.

As a long-standing member of the ICAPP, we shall continue to observe and support the wonderful tradition of the ICAPP. We do assure you of our best attention at all times.

Sincerely yours,

H.E. Mr. Kiat Sittheeamorn
Chairperson of the Committee on Foreign Affairs
Democrat Party

ICAPP Secretariat

SEOUL

e-mail : public@democrat.or.th
www.democat.or.th

สจฺจํ เว อมตา วาจา

พรรคประชาธิปัตย์
67 ถ.เศรษฐศิริ แขวงสามเสนใน
เขตพญาไท กรุงเทพมหานคร 10400
โทรศัพท์ : 02-828-1000
โทรสาร : 02-828-1001

Democrat Party
67 Sedsiri Rd., Samsannai Phayathai
Bangkok 10400 Thailand
Tel : 66-2-828-1000
Fax : 66-2-828-1001

Appendix IV

ICAPP

International Conference of Asian Political Parties

Condolence Statement on the Passing Away of His Excellency Abdul Matin Khasru

16 April 2021

We are deeply saddened by the news that His Excellency Abdul Matin Khasru, Member of the Presidium of the Bangladesh *Awami* League, President of the Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA) and Member of the ICAPP Standing Committee, passed away on 14 April 2021 in Dhaka, Bangladesh.

His Excellency Abdul Matin Khasru was a statesman par excellence who dedicated himself to public service and the pursuit of justice. Throughout his career, he made important and lasting contributions to the establishment of parliamentary democracy and the rule of law in Bangladesh.

He was a man of many achievements. As one of the most prominent lawyers in his country, he served as the Minister of Law and Justice in the first cabinet of Sheikh Hasina, and as a five-time Member of Parliament. Also, he is known to have commanded freedom fighters in Burichang in Comilla district during the Bangladesh Liberation War.

His Excellency had a big heart for the people of Bangladesh and served his community with remarkable generosity and leadership. Even during the COVID-19 pandemic, he provided food assistance to many families in need using personal funds, inspiring others to come forward during the crisis.

His leadership also shone through at the many ICAPP conferences he participated in. As the representative of the Bangladesh *Awami* League in the ICAPP Standing Committee, he brought his wisdom, insights and keen understanding to the table, making a positive impact on the promotion of dialogue and cooperation among political parties in Asia.

On behalf of the ICAPP, we extend our most sincere condolences to his beloved family and the people of Bangladesh during this time of sorrow. His Excellency Abdul Matin Khasru will be greatly missed by his friends and colleagues in the ICAPP.

Jose de Venecia, Jr.
Founder of the ICAPP and
Co-Chairman of the ICAPP
Standing Committee,
Former Speaker of the
House of Representatives,
Philippines

Chung Eui-yong
Co-Chairman of the ICAPP
Standing Committee,
Minister of Foreign Affairs of
the Republic of Korea

Cho Byung-jae
Secretary-General of the ICAPP

ICAPP Secretariat
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Tel: (+82) 70-7772-5159 / Fax: (+82) 2-702-5535 / Email: secretariat@theicapp.org / Website: www.theicapp.org

Appendix V-1

Program of the Special Video Conference of the ICAPP Youth Wing:
Education and Social Protection Mechanisms for Youth During and After COVID-19

Date: Wednesday, 3 February 2021
Time: 06:00 a.m. – 09:00 a.m. GMT

GMT Session

06:00 Opening Session

- Welcoming remarks by Hon. Jose de Venecia, Jr., Founder of the ICAPP and Co-Chairman of the ICAPP Standing Committee, former Speaker of the House of Representatives of the Philippines (3 minutes)
- Opening remarks by Co-Chairpersons of the ICAPP Youth Wing (3 minutes each)
  - Hon. Dato' Seri Shahidan bin Kassim, Member of Parliament from United Malays National Organisation (UMNO), Malaysia
  - Hon. Ramin Mammadov, Member of Parliament (*Milli Majlis*) and Acting Chairman of Youth Union of New Azerbaijan Party, Azerbaijan

06:10 First Session on Youth Education

(Moderator: Hon. Cho Byung-jae, Secretary General of the ICAPP)

- Keynote presentation by an expert from UNESCO (10 minutes)
  - Ms. Jenelle Babb, Regional Advisor, Education for Health and Wellbeing, UNESCO Bangkok, Regional Bureau for Education for Asia and the Pacific
- Q&A Session (10 minutes)
- Presentation by representatives of 20 political parties and observers (3 minutes each)

07:30 Second Session on Youth Employment

(Moderator: Hon. Cho Byung-jae, Secretary General of the ICAPP)

- Keynote presentation by an expert from ILO (10 minutes)
  - Mr. Markus Ruck, Senior Specialist on Social Protection, ILO Decent Work Team for East and South-East Asia and the Pacific
- Q&A Session (10 minutes)
- Presentation by representatives of 20 political parties and observers (3 minutes each)

08:50 Closing Session

(Moderator: Hon. Cho Byung-jae, Secretary General of the ICAPP)

- Adoption of the statement (3 minutes)
- Closing remarks by Co-Chairpersons of the ICAPP Youth Wing (3 minutes each)
  - Hon. Ramin Mammadov, Member of Parliament (*Milli Majlis*) and Acting Chairman of Youth Union of New Azerbaijan Party, Azerbaijan
  - Hon. Dato' Seri Shahidan bin Kassim, Member of Parliament from United Malays National Organisation (UMNO), Malaysia

Appendix V-2

List of Participants of the Special Video Conference of the ICAPP Youth Wing: Education and Social Protection Mechanisms for Youth During and After COVID-19

Political Parties (24 Countries, 33 Political Parties)

1. **Azerbaijan**
   1) **New Azerbaijan Party** (1)
   - Hon. Ramin Mammadov, Co-Chairperson of the ICAPP Youth Wing, Member of Parliament (*Milli Majlis*) and Acting Chairman of the Youth Union of the New Azerbaijan Party
   2) **Civil Solidarity Party** (1)
   - Mr. Yousif Khantemir, Chairman of the Youth Organization of the Civil Solidarity Party

2. **Bangladesh**
   3) **Bangladesh *Awami* League** (1)
   - Hon. Abdul Matin Khasru, Member of Parliament and Member of the Presidium of the Bangladesh *Awami* League, former Minister of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs of Bangladesh

3. **Bhutan**
   4) **Bhutan United Party (*Druk Nyamrup Tshogpa*)** (1)
   - Hon. Dorjee Wangmo, Member of Parliament from the Bhutan United Party (*Druk Nyamrup Tshogpa*)
   5) **Bhutan Peace and Prosperity Party *(Druk Phuensum Tshogpa)*** (1)
   - Hon. Ugyen Dorji, Member of Parliament from the Bhutan Peace and Prosperity Party *(Druk Phuensum Tshogpa)*

4. **Cambodia**
   6) **Cambodian People's Party (CPP)** (2)
   - Hon. Soken Sok, Member of the CPP's Committee and President of the CPP's Youth Working Group at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation
   - Mr. Kimsor Oeng, Member of the CPP's Committee at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation

5. **Cyprus**
   7) **Progressive Party of Working People (*AKEL*)** (1)
   - Mr. Seviros Koulas, General Secretary of *EDON* (United Democratic Youth Organization) of *AKEL*

6. **India**
   8) ***Bharatiya Janata* Party (*BJP*)** (1)
   - Hon. Dr. Vijay Jolly, President of Delhi Study Group, Senior Indian *BJP* Leader

7. **Indonesia**
   9) ***Golkar* Party** (2)

- Ms. Diana Widyastuti, Member of the Central Executive Board of *Golkar* Party
- Mr. Lucky Ali Moerfiqin, Member of the Election Winning Body of *Golkar* Party

8. Iran

10) **Islamic *Motalefeh* Party** (2)

- Mr. Mohammad Mahdi TinaiTehrani, Deputy of the International Department of the Islamic *Motalefeh* Party
- Mr. Mohamed Amin TinaiTehrani, Point Person for Youth in the Islamic *Motalefeh* Party

9. Japan

11) **The Constitutional Democratic Party (CDP)** (2)

- Hon. Shu Sakurai, Member of the House of Representatives, Deputy Director of the International Division of CDP
- Ms. Yoko Furuyama, Deputy Director of the Secretariat of the International Division of CDP

12) **Japanese Communist Party** (1)

- Ms. Hiromi Yoshimoto, Member of the International Commission, Central Committee of the Japanese Communist Party

10. Korea, Republic of

13) **Democratic Party of Korea** (1)

- Hon. Kyung Tae Jang, Member of the National Assembly from the Democratic Party of Korea

14) **People Power Party** (1)

- Hon. Seung Hee Hwang Bo, Member of the National Assembly from the People Power Party

11. Laos

15) **Lao People's Revolutionary Party (Lao PRP)** (6)

- Hon. Somphone Sichaleune, Vice-Chairman of the Committee for External Relations, Central Committee of Lao PRP
- Mr. Khamefeuang Phanthaxay, Acting Director General of the Research and Information Department of Lao PRP
- Mr. Thongsavath Phanthavong, Director of the Multilateral Relations Division, Research and Information Department of Lao PRP
- Mr. Thathsaphone Lerththavone, Director of the ASEAN Division, International Relations and Cooperation Department of Lao PRP, Member of the Lao Youth Union
- Ms. Vilatda Chansomphou, Desk Officer of the Multilateral Relations Division, Research and Information Department of Lao PRP
- Ms. Khanhpaseuth Svengsucksa, Desk Officer of the Multilateral Relations Division, Research and Information Department of Lao PRP

12. Lebanon

16) **Free Patriotic Movement (FPM)** (1)

- Hon. Youssef Awad, Coordinator for Asia and Overseas, Free Patriotic Movement Party

17) **Future Movement Party** (1)
- Hon. Fadi Fawaz, Advisor to the former Prime Minister Saad Hariri for Development Affairs, Member of the Future Movement Party

13. Malaysia

18) **United Malays National Organisation (UMNO)** (2)
- Hon. Dato' Seri Shahidan bin Kassim, Co-Chairperson of the ICAPP Youth Wing, Member of Parliament from UMNO, former Minister in the Office of Prime Minister of Malaysia
- Hon. Dato' Dr. Asyraf Wajdi Dusuki, Chief of UMNO Youth

19) **Malaysian Chinese Association (MCA)** (2)
- Hon. Datuk' Siaw Ting Wong (Nicole), National Youth Chief of MCA
- Mr. Kwok Xheng Ho (Ryan), Youth Spokesperson and Member of the Central Committee of MCA

14. Maldives

20) **Maldivian Democratic Party** (1)
- Ms. Rifqa Shiham, Youth Wing Representative of Male' City, Maldivian Democratic Party

15. Mongolia

21) **Mongolian People's Party (MPP)** (1)
- Mr. Tselmuun Manlaijav, Head of the Department of International Relations of MPP

16. Myanmar

22) **Union Solidarity and Development Party (USDP)** (3)
- Mr. Nay Win Aung, Head of Branch, International Relations Department of USDP
- Ms. Nyein Hsu Wai, Deputy Chief of the Youth Executive Committee of USDP
- Ms. Ei Moh Moh Kyaw, Member of the Youth Executive Committee of USDP

17. Nepal

23) **Nepal Communist Party** (2)
- Hon. Jhala Nath Khanal, Senior Leader of the Nepal Communist Party, former Prime Minister of Nepal
- Mr. Yogendra Bahadur Shahi, Member of the Provincial Committee and Karnali Province Planning Commission (KPPC) of the Nepal Communist Party

24) **Nepali Congress Party** (2)
- Dr. Tara P Banjade, President of the Nepal Union China Chapter, Director of *Girija Prasad Koirala* Foundation
- Dr. Prabhu Budhathoki, Member of the Nepali Congress Central Policy, Research and Training Academy (NCCPRTA)

18. New Zealand

25) **New Zealand Labour Party** (2)
- Mr. Liam Wairepo, Policy Officer of Young Labour of the New Zealand Labour Party

- Mr. Dan Harward Jones, President of Young Labour of the New Zealand Labour Party

19. Pakistan

26) **Pakistan Muslim League-N** (1)

- Mr. Mustafa Sayed, Vice Chairperson of the ICAPP Youth Wing, Youth Representative of Pakistan Muslim League (Nawaz-N) (PML-N), Executive Director of Pakistan-China Institute (PCI)

20. Russia

27) **United Russia Party** (1)

- Ms. Daria Sharova, International Secretary of the Young Guard of the United Russia Party

21. Sri Lanka

28) **United National Party (UNP)** (1)

- Mr. Sandith Samarasinghe, Secretary for International Affairs of UNP

22. Thailand

29) ***Pheu Thai* Party** (2)

- Hon. Wanniwat Somboon, Spokeperson of the Education Committee and Member of Parliament from *Pheu Thai* Party
- Mr. Paopoom Rojanasakul, Deputy Secretary-General of *Pheu Thai* Party

30) ***Democrat* Party** (1)

- Mr. Pracob Chirakiti, former Vice Minister attached to the Prime Minister Office, former Member of Parliament from the *Democrat* Party

23. Turkey

31) ***AK* Party** (2)

- Mr. Cengizhan Gungor, Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Division of *AK* Party Youth Branch
- Dr. Suay Nilhan, Deputy Chairwoman of the Foreign Affairs Division of *AK* Party Youth Branch

24. Uzbekistan

32) **Liberal Democratic Party of Uzbekistan** (1)

- Mr. Yusufjon Yusupov, Head of the Youth Department of the Executive Committee, Political Council of the Liberal Democratic Party of Uzbekistan

33) **People's Democratic Party of Uzbekistan** (4)

- Hon. Zukhra Shadieva, Deputy of the Legislative Chamber of Parliament (*Oliy Majlis)* from the People's Democratic Party of Uzbekistan
- Mr. Michael Elshov, Chief Consultant, Central Council of the People's Democratic Party of Uzbekistan
- Mr. Jaxongir Kabirjonov, Head of the Youth Wing, Central Council of the People's Democratic Party of Uzbekistan
- Ms. Malika Rashidova, Head of the Department of Ideological and Educational Work, Central Council of the People's Democratic Party of Uzbekistan

Keynote Speakers (2)

1. **United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)** (1)
   - Ms. Jenelle Babb, Regional Advisor, Education for Health and Wellbeing, UNESCO Bangkok, Regional Bureau for Education for Asia and the Pacific

2. **International Labour Organization (ILO)** (1)
   - Mr. Markus Ruck, Senior Specialist on Social Protection, ILO Decent Work Team for East and South-East Asia and the Pacific

Observers (2)

1. **ICAPP-Asian Cultural Council (ACC) Secretariat** (1)
   - Mr. Ly Chanrainsey, Officer of the ICAPP-ACC Secretariat, Cambodia

2. **Permanent Conference of Political Parties of Latin America and the Caribbean (COPPPAL)** (1)
   - Mr. Hiram Hernandez Zetina, President of Red de Jóvenes x México, Mexico

Office of the Founder of the ICAPP (1)

- Hon. Jose de Venecia, Jr., Founder of the ICAPP, Co-Chairman of the ICAPP Standing Committee, former Speaker of the House of Representatives of *Philippines*

ICAPP Secretariat (6)

- Hon. Cho Byung-jae, Secretary General of the ICAPP, former Ambassador of the Republic of Korea to Malaysia and Myanmar, former Chancellor of Korea National Diplomatic Academy
- Ms. Park Hyun-ryang, Director of the Secretariat
- Ms. Jeong Sang-myoung, Administrative Officer
- Ms. Seojin Lee, Program Director
- Mr. Kim Deok-su, Program Officer
- Ms. Kim Hee Young, Program Officer

Appendix V-3

Statement of the ICAPP Youth Wing on Education and Social Protection Mechanisms for Youth During and After COVID-19

1. We, the representatives of 33 political parties from 24 Countries, gathered virtually for the Special Video Conference of the ICAPP Youth Wing. The meeting was co-hosted by the ICAPP Youth Wing and the ICAPP Secretariat and held on 3 February 2021. The meeting was organized over an online platform due to physical constraints as a result of COVID-19. The main theme of the conference was "Education and Social Protection Mechanisms for Youth During and After COVID-19." The conference was structured into two sessions: the first session focused on the topic of enabling continuity in learning for youth, and the second session on expanding social protection mechanisms for young people who have lost their jobs or experienced income reductions.

2. We recalled takeaways from our five previous meetings of the ICAPP Youth Wing in Kuala Lumpur (2012), Baku (2013), Colombo (2014), Moscow (2018), and Baku (2019), which reiterated the ICAPP's commitment to youth development in Asia and beyond. We revisited key points in the 2019 "Baku Statement for the 5th Meeting of the ICAPP Youth Wing," which called upon political parties and governments to increase international cooperation to promote the participation of youth in socio-economic activities, to provide structural guidelines for vocational training and employment of youth, and to protect youth rights and equal opportunities.

3. We acknowledged the difficult situation youth are facing in the area of education due to COVID-19. In particular, we took note of how one in eight young people (13%) who were studying or combining work and study before the pandemic were left without access to any form of education. We recognized that the situation is especially acute in low-income countries, where many do not have access to remote learning tools and the internet. We noted that young people's nutrition and well-being were also being affected as schools are often a source of free meals and health needs.

4. We acknowledged the difficult situation youth are facing in the area of employment due to COVID-19. In particular, we took note of how one in six young people (17%) who were employed before the pandemic became unemployed and two out of five young people (42%) saw reductions in their incomes. We further recognized that young people are more likely to be the subject of precarious job contracts and working arrangements and therefore, more likely to lack adequate social protection than others.

5. In response to the current challenges faced by youth, we underlined the importance of raising awareness and promoting appropriate policy responses that incorporate the whole-of-society and intergenerational approaches to prevent a long-lasting and damaging impact on youth, taking into account the significant disruptions across education and employment as a result of COVID-19. In the sphere of education, we emphasized the responsibility of governments, political parties, private sector and all other stakeholders in enabling continuity in learning. We encouraged ICAPP members to join the international community in taking actions to expand internet access, digital infrastructure and connectivity as well as to arrange remote learning solutions through high-tech, low-tech and no-tech solutions depending on young people's access to digital connectivity. We also

highlighted the importance of caring for young people of low-income backgrounds that rely on schools to meet their nutrition and health needs.

6. In the sphere of employment, we called upon governments and political parties to devise social protection measures such as unemployment support and access to healthcare that can reach young people. We also drew attention to measures that could improve the working conditions of young people, especially those engaged in precarious work in the informal economy.

7. We expressed our strong support for the United Nations Inter-Agency Network on Youth Development's (UN IANYD) 2020 "Statement on COVID-19 & Youth," which endorsed partnering with young people, recognizing young people's own actions and their potential to advance the fight against the pandemic; understanding the specific impacts the pandemic will have on young people; and ensuring COVID-19 related responses will uphold young people's human rights and incorporate their needs.

8. We emphasized concerted action to not only develop and examine youth policies, but also recognize the important role young people can play in sustainable development efforts, including climate change, unemployment, poverty, gender equality, conflict and migration. We concurred with the UN Secretary-General's 2017 report on youth development, which asserted that the "pledges made in the 2030 Agenda to leave no one behind and to reach the furthest behind first, as well as its affirmation to be people-centred, ensure that youth are included in all aspects of the Agenda." As such, we called upon governments and political parties to design and implement policy frameworks that can improve the situation of young people at both the national and international levels. Also, we agreed to share updates on the progress made on these policy measures at the upcoming 6th Youth Wing Meeting, which will be held in Mongolia later this year.

9. We considered it critical to establish active partnerships among all stakeholders to implement effective policy measures for young people who are affected by COVID-19. In this regard, we highly appreciated the participation of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and the International Labour Organization (ILO) in the conference, and the insights and expertise shared by their representatives.

10. We emphasized a strong and urgent need for international partnership and solidarity among the ICAPP members in the fight against COVID-19. We called on responsible governments and political parties to share best practices, experiences, and low-cost educational tools and methods with the ICAPP global family to help weather the global challenges caused by COVID-19; and thereby, advance the spirit of building a community and improve the shared future of humanity through the assurance of youth education, health security, adequate employment opportunities, and enhanced quality of life.

11. We expressed our appreciation to the ICAPP Youth Wing and the ICAPP Secretariat for the successful organization of the event. We also shared our excitement and anticipation for the next meeting of the ICAPP Youth Wing, which will be hosted by the Mongolian People's Party in the latter half of this year.

Adopted on 3 February 2021

Appendix VI-1

Program of the Special Video Conference of the ICAPP Women's Wing: Women's Empowerment During and After COVID-19

Date: Wednesday, 24 February 2021
Time: 06:00 a.m. – 09:00 a.m. GMT

GMT ***Session***

06:00 ***Opening Session***

(Moderator: Hon. Cho Byung-jae, Secretary-General of the ICAPP)

- Introduction by Hon. Cho Byung-jae, Secretary-General of the ICAPP (2 minutes)
- Welcoming remarks by Hon. Jose de Venecia, Jr., Founder of the ICAPP and Co-Chairman of the ICAPP Standing Committee, former Speaker of the House of Representatives of the Philippines (3 minutes)
- Opening remarks by Hon. Sujata Koirala, Co-Chairperson of the ICAPP Women's Wing, Member of Parliament from the Nepali Congress Party, former Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Nepal (3 minutes)

06:10 ***First Session on Economic Insecurity***

(Moderator: Hon. Cho Byung-jae, Secretary-General of the ICAPP)

- Keynote presentation by Ms. Maria Holtsberg, Regional Advisor for Humanitarian Action and Disaster Reduction at the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women) Regional Office of Asia and the Pacific (10 minutes)
- Q&A session (10 minutes)
- Presentation by representatives of approximately 15 political parties and observers (3 minutes each)

07:30 ***Second Session on Gender-based Violence***

(Moderator: Hon. Cho Byung-jae, Secretary-General of the ICAPP)

- Keynote presentation by Ms. Cai Cai, Chief of the Gender Equality and Social Inclusion Section, Social Development Division, United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP) (10 minutes)
- Q&A session (10 minutes)
- Presentation by representatives of approximately 15 political parties and observers (3 minutes each)

08:50 ***Closing Session***

(Moderator: Hon. Cho Byung-jae, Secretary-General of the ICAPP)

- Adoption of the statement (3 minutes)
- Conclusion by Hon. Cho Byung-jae, Secretary-General of the ICAPP (2 minutes)
- Closing remarks by Hon. Dr. Nalinee Taveesin, Co-Chairperson of the ICAPP Women's Wing, former Thailand Trade Representative, former Minister attached to the Prime Minister's Office of Thailand, Member of *Pheu Thai* Party (3 minutes)

~09:00 ***End***

Appendix VI-2

List of Participants of the Special Video Conference of the ICAPP Women's Wing: Women's Empowerment During and After COVID-19

Political Parties (22 Countries, 32 Political Parties)

1. **Azerbaijan**
   1) **New Azerbaijan Party** (2)
   - Hon. Malahat Ibrahimgizi, Vice Chairperson of the ICAPP Women's Wing, Member of the *Milli Majlis* (Parliament) and Member of the Political Council of New Azerbaijan Party
   - Hon. Sevinj Fataliyeva, Member of the *Milli Majlis* (Parliament) and Chief of the International Department of New Azerbaijan Party

   2) **Civic Solidarity Party** (1)
   - Ms. Aygun Gurbanova, Member of the Civic Solidarity Party

2. **Cambodia**
   3) **Cambodian People's Party (CPP)** (8)
   - Hon. Ing Kantha Phavi, Minister of Women's Affairs of Cambodia
   - Hon. Hou Nirmita, Under Secretary of State of the Ministry of Women's Affairs (MOWA)
   - Hon. Nhean Sochetra, Director General of Social Development of MOWA
   - Hon. The Chunnhak, Director General of Gender Equality and Economic Development of MOWA
   - Mr. Sao Vong Virak, Deputy Director General of MOWA
   - Ms. Sar Sineth, Deputy Director General of Social Development of MOWA
   - Mr. Phon Puthborey, Director of Legal Protection Department of MOWA
   - Ms. Thoeun Sarkmarkna, Director of Women's Economic Development of MOWA
3. **Cyprus**
   4) **Democratic Rally *(DISY)*** (1)
   - Mrs. Ourania Schiza, President of the Women's Organisation of the Democratic Rally (*GODISY*)

   5) **Progressive Party of Working People (*AKEL)*** (1)
   - Hon. Skevi Koutra-Koukouma, Member of Parliament from *AKEL,* General Secretary of *AKEL*'s Women's Wing (Women's Movement of *POGO*)

4. **Georgia**
   6) **Georgian Dream** (1)
   - Hon. Nino Tsilosani, Member of Parliament from the Georgian Dream, Chairperson of the Committee on Agrarian Issues and the Permanent Parliamentary Gender Equality Council

5. **India**
   7) ***Bharatiya Janata* Party (*BJP*)** (1)
   - Mrs. Satindra Kumari, Vice President of Madangir District of *BJP*, Member of the Delhi Women's Wing of *BJP*

6. Indonesia

8) **Indonesian Democratic Party of Struggle (*PDI-P*)** (1)

- Ms. Kirana Larasati Hanafiah, Member of the Foreign Affairs Division of the Central Leadership Board of *PDI-P*

9) ***Golkar* Party** (4)

- Hon. Ambassador Iris Indira Murti, Member of the Advisory Board of *Golkar* Party
- Ms. Diana Widyastuti, Member of the Central Executive Board of *Golkar* Party
- Ms. Chandra Kusuma, Member of the Women's Wing of *Golkar* Party
- Ms. Emmalia Emmalia, Member of the Women's Wing of *Golkar* Party

7. Iran

10) **Islamic *Motalefeh* Party** (1)

- Ms. Maryam Gaeinipour, Member of the High Council of Women of the Islamic *Motalefeh* Party

8. Japan

11) **Japanese Communist Party** (1)

- Ms. Yoko Iida, Deputy Secretary-General of the Gender Equality Commission of the Japanese Communist Party

9. Korea, Republic of

12) **Democratic Party of Korea** (1)

- Hon. Jungmin Hong, Member of the National Assembly from Democratic Party of Korea

13) **People Power Party** (1)

- Hon. Joo-Hyae Jun, Member of the National Assembly from People Power Party

10. Laos

14) **Lao People's Revolutionary Party (Lao PRP)** (6)

- Hon. Bundith Prathoumvanh, Member of the National Assembly from the Lao PRP, Vice-President of the Lao Women's Union at the Lao PRP
- Mr. Thongsavath Phanthavong, Director of the Multilateral Relations Division of the Research and Information Department, Committee for External Relations of the Central Committee of the Lao PRP
- Mr. Khamefeuang Phanthaxay, Deputy Director General of the Research and Information Department, Committee for External Relations of the Central Committee of the Lao PRP
- Ms. Sisavanh Detvongsone Deputy Director General of the Planning and International Cooperation Department of the Lao Women's Union
- Ms. Vilatda Chansomphou, Desk Officer at the Multilateral Relations Division of Research and Information Department, Committee for External Relations of the Central Committee of the Lao PRP
- Ms. Khanhpaseuth Svengsucksa, Desk Officer at the Multilateral Relations Division, Research and Information Department, Committee for External Relations of the Central Committee of the Lao PRP

11. Lebanon

15) **Free Patriotic Movement (FPM)** (1)

- Ms. Joelle Bachaalany, Representative of the Diaspora Sector of the Free Patriotic Movement

12. Malaysia

16) **United Malays National Organisation (UMNO)** (1)

- Hon. Datuk Noraini Ahmad, Chief of the Women's Wing of UMNO and Minister of Higher Education of Malaysia

17) **Democratic Action Party (DAP)** (1)

- Hon. Lee Koon Tan, Member of Negeri Sembilan State Executive Council of DAP

18) **Malaysian Chinese Association (MCA)** (2)

- Hon. Datuk Heng Seai Kie, National Chairperson of the Women's Wing of MCA (*Wanita* MCA)
- Sdri. Wong You Fong, Deputy Chairperson of *Wanita* MCA

13. Mongolia

19) **Mongolian People's Party (MPP)** (12)

- Ms. Enkhjargal Danzanbaljir, Board Member of Social Democracy-Mongolian Women's Association (SDMWA) of MPP
- Mr. Tselmuun Manlaijav, Head of the International Relations Department of MPP
- Ms. Saikhansanaa Khurelbaatar, Director of the Strategy Academy of MPP
- Ms. Namuunaa Amarsanaa, Researcher of the Strategy Academy of MPP
- Ms. Oyundalai Odkhuu, Researcher of the Strategy Academy of MPP
- Ms. Gangamurun Ganbaatar Mongolian National Conference Member of the Social Democracy and Mongolian Women's Association (SDMWA) of MPP
- Ms. Oyunbileg Sanjaadorj, Vice President of the SDMWA of MPP
- Ms. Narangarav Tuvaandorj, President of the SDMWA of Uvurkhangai province of MPP
- Ms. Duurenjargal Munkhnaran, Member of the SDMWA of MPP
- Ms. Nyamjargal Burged, Member of the SDMWA of MPP
- Ms. Oyunbayar Battumur, President of the SDMWA of Orkhon province of MPP
- Ms. Undram Otgonchuluun, Member of the SDMWA of MPP

14. Myanmar

20) **Union Solidarity and Development Party** (1)

- Ms. Zar Chi Linn, Secretary of the East District of Yangon, Union Solidarity and Development Party

15. Nepal

21) **Nepal Communist Party (NCP)** (3)

- Hon. Jhala Nath Khanal, Senior Leader of the NCP, former Prime Minister of Nepal
- Hon. Ram Kumari Jhankri, Member of Parliament from the NCP, Member of the Central Committee of NCP
- Mr. Yogendra Bahadur Shahi, Member of the Provincial Committee and Karnali Province Planning Commission (KPPC) of the NCP

22) **Nepali Congress Party** (2)

- Hon. Sujata Koirala, Co-Chairperson of the ICAPP Women's Wing, Member of Parliament and Member of the Central Committee of Nepali Congress Party, former Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister of Nepal
- Prof. Dr. Kushum Shakya, Dean of Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences at the Tribhuvan University, Nepal

16. New Zealand

23) **New Zealand Labour Party** (1)

- Hon. Ingrid Leary, Member of Parliament for Taieri from New Zealand Labour Party

17. Philippines

24) **PDP-Laban** (4)

- Hon. Astravel Naik, Chairperson of the Membership Committee of PDP-Laban, Undersecretary and Executive Director of Commission on Filipinos Overseas of Philippines
- Ms. Maria Kristine Josefina Balmes, Provincial President, Deputy Executive Director of Philippine Commission on Women of Philippines
- Dr. Joan Lagunda, Assitant Secretary of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources of Philippines
- Ms. Rufina Arcega, Chairperson of the National Education Committee of PDP-Laban

25) **Liberal Party of the Philippines (LP)** (1)

- Ms. Rhaetia Marie Abcede-Llaga, Member of LP

18. Sri Lanka

26) **United National Party (UNP)** (1)

- Hon. Dr. Anoma Gamage, Vice Chairperson of the ICAPP Women's Wing, Assistant Secretary of UNP, former Deputy Minister of Irrigation and Agriculture and former State Minister of Petroleum Resources and Development of Sri Lanka

19. Syria

27) **Arab Socialist *Baath* Party** (4)

- Hon. Bushra Zraika, Member of Parliament from the Arab Socialist *Baath* Party
- Hon. Hayfaa Jomaa, Member of Parliament from the Arab Socialist *Baath* Party
- Hon. Hazar Duks, Member of Parliament from the Arab Socialist *Baath* Party
- Hon. Basema Shater, Member of Parliament from the Arab Socialist *Baath* Party

20. Thailand

28) ***Pheu Thai* Party** (1)

- Hon. Dr. Nalinee Taveesin, Co-Chairperson of the ICAPP Women's Wing, former Thailand Trade Representative, former Minister attached to the Prime Minister's Office of Thailand, Member of *Pheu Thai* Party

29) **Democrat Party** (1)

- Hon. Prakob Chirakiti, former Member of Parliament from the Democrat Party

21. Turkey

30) ***AK* Party** (1)

- Ms. Ummugulsum Umutlu, Vice Chairwoman of the Women's Wing of the *AK* Party

22. Uzbekistan

31) **People's Democratic Party of Uzbekistan** (2)

- Ms. Malika Rashidova, Head of the Department of Ideological and Educational Work of the Central Council of the People's Democratic Party of Uzbekistan

- Ms. Gulshan Asatova, Head of the Women's Wing of the Central Council of the People's Democratic Party of Uzbekistan

32) **Uzbekistan Liberal Democratic Party (O'zLiDeP)** (1)

- Ms. Sevra Muslimova, Head of the Female Department of the Executive Committee of the Political Council of O'zLiDeP

Keynote Speakers (2)

1. **United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women)** (1)
   - Ms. Maria Holtsberg, Regional Advisor for Humanitarian Action and Disaster Risk Reduction at the UN Women Regional Office of Asia and the Pacific

2. **United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP)** (1)
   - Ms. Cai Cai, Chief of the Gender Equality and Social Inclusion Section, Social Development Division at UNESCAP

Observers (4)

1. **Permanent Conference of Political Parties of Latin America and the Caribbean (*COPPPAL*)** (1)
   - Ms. Sofia Carvajal, Executive Secretary of *COPPPAL*

2. **International Council of Asian Political Parties-Asian Cultural Council (ICAPP-ACC)** (3)
   - Hon. Ly Chanrainsey, Member of the ICAPP-ACC Cambodia Secretariat
   - Ms. Lim Sreynith, Member of the ICAPP-ACC Cambodia Secretariat
   - Ms. Pov Yousim, Member of the ICAPP-ACC Cambodia Secretariat

Office of the Founder of the ICAPP (1)

- Hon. Jose de Venecia, Jr., Founder of the ICAPP, Co-Chairman of the ICAPP Standing Committee, former Speaker of the House of Representatives of *Philippines*

ICAPP Secretariat (6)

- Hon. Cho Byung-jae, Secretary-General of the ICAPP, former Ambassador of the Republic of Korea to Malaysia and Myanmar, former Chancellor of Korea National Diplomatic Academy
- Ms. Park Hyun-ryang, Director of the Secretariat
- Ms. Jeong Sang-myoung, Administrative Officer
- Ms. Seojin Lee, Program Director
- Mr. Kim Deok-su, Program Officer
- Ms. Kim Hee Young, Program Officer

Appendix VI-3

Statement of the ICAPP Women's Wing on Women's Empowerment During and After COVID-19

1. We, the representatives of 32 political parties from 22 countries, gathered virtually for the Special Video Conference of the ICAPP Women's Wing. The meeting was co-hosted by the ICAPP Women's Wing and the ICAPP Secretariat and held on 24 February 2021. The meeting was organized over an online platform due to physical constraints as a result of COVID-19. The main theme of the conference was "Women's Empowerment During and After COVID-19." The conference was structured into two sessions. The first session addressed the topic of economic insecurity, in particular, how to mitigate the negative and disproportionate economic impacts of COVID-19 on women. The second session dealt with gender-based violence with a focus on preventing and redressing domestic violence against women.

2. We recalled takeaways from our five previous meetings of the ICAPP Women's Wing in Baku (2013), Colombo (2014), Baku (2015), Kuala Lumpur (2016), Moscow (2018), and Baku (2019), which underlined the importance of promoting gender equality in achieving sustainable and inclusive societies. We revisited the 2019 "Baku Statement for the 6th Meeting of the ICAPP Women's Wing," which emphasized the importance of creating an inclusive environment and addressing the needs of the female population.

3. We acknowledged the economic challenges faced by women due to COVID-19. As stated in the UN Women report, "From Insights to Action: Gender Equality in the Wake of COVID-19," 435 million women and girls, including an increase of 47 million as a result of COVID-19, are estimated to live in poverty, or less than $1.90 a day. We noted the higher vulnerability of the female labor force under current circumstances as is evident from the report's statistics that 50 percent of women have experienced a reduction in working time compared to 35 percent of men.

4. We acknowledged the rise in domestic violence since the inception of the pandemic, noting that in some countries, reports of violence against women have surged by as much as 25 percent. We further recognized the prevailing environment, in which restrictions of movement, transition of domestic violence shelters into health centers, the lack of judicial, police and health support services, and an inability to seek help have led victims of domestic violence to become isolated.

5. We called upon members to adopt gender-responsive policies and programs that can ensure the economic stability of women by means of equal opportunities to access education, financial assistance, and social protection mechanisms. We urged for state-led motions to combat harmful stereotypes around gender roles to improve social integration. Meanwhile, we underlined the necessity to establish support measures that can ease women's increasing burdens of domestic and unpaid care work during the pandemic.

6. We emphasized the importance of continuation in funding and operation of domestic violence shelters and services supporting women against gender-based violence. Also, we called upon governments and political parties to actively consider incorporating the

designation of such resources as essential services. Furthermore, in light of the recent increase in gender-based domestic violence, we stressed the need to revise and enhance existing systems of reporting domestic violence and separating victims from abusers.

7. We expressed our strong support for the United Nations 1995 Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, calling for all government policies and programs to reflect gender perspectives. In line with the objectives in the declaration, we reaffirmed our commitment to ensure women's economic empowerment by securing full and equal access to the labor market, a safe work environment without discrimination or abuse, and equal pay for work of equal value. We also endorsed the declaration's call for gender-sensitive policies and programs that can address domestic violence at a societal level rather than as a private matter. We concurred with the declaration's appeal to fill gaps in gender-disaggregated data and statistics, which can improve monitoring of violence, and to promote the integration of mental health services into primary health-care systems, so that victims of domestic violence can be better assisted.

8. We pledged to continue the strong international partnership and collaboration among ICAPP Members to share best practices, experiences, and insights from overcoming obstacles to gender equality. We called on responsible governments and political parties of ICAPP member countries to promptly address the current threats faced by women and girls in the interest of creating a safe and secure environment for all members of the community. We agreed to share updates on the progress made on these policy measures at the upcoming 7th Women's Wing Meeting, which will be held in Mongolia later this year.

9. We expressed our profound gratitude to the representatives of United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women) and the United Nations Economic, and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP) for participating in the conference to share their invaluable insights and expertise. We also showed our appreciation to the Permanent Conference of Political Parties of Latin America and the Caribbean (*COPPPAL*) for participating in the conference and sharing their knowledge and actions in light of their contributions to women's empowerment in Latin America and the Caribbean. We agreed to strengthen our respective partnerships with multilateral organizations to ensure standards for gender equality are effectively designed and implemented and to promote accountability through sharing regular updates on system-wide progress.

10. We expressed our appreciation to the ICAPP Women's Wing and the ICAPP Secretariat for the successful organization of the conference. We also shared our excitement and anticipation for the next meeting of the ICAPP Women's Wing, which will be hosted by the Mongolian People's Party in the later half of this year.

Adopted on 24 February 2021.

Appendix VII-1

Program of the 2nd Meeting of the Asian Cultural Council

Date: Friday, 19 March 2021
Time: 06:00 AM – 09:00 AM GMT

06:00 – 06:15 AM OPENING SESSION
(Moderator: **Hon. Cho Byung-jae**, Secretary-General of the ICAPP)

- **Introduction** by **Hon. Cho Byung-jae**, Secretary-General of the ICAPP (2 minutes)
- **Welcoming Remarks** by **Hon. Jose de Venecia Jr.**, Founder of the ICAPP, Co-Chairman of the ICAPP Standing Committee, and former Speaker of the House of Representatives of the Philippines (3 minutes)
- **Opening Remarks** by **Hon. Khuon Sudary**, Vice-Chairperson of the ICAPP Standing Committee, Chairperson of the ACC, Member of the Standing Committee of the Cambodian People's Party, and Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly of Cambodia (3 minutes)

06:15 – 06:30 AM REPORT ON THE ASIAN CULTURAL COUNCIL
(Moderator: **Hon. Cho Byung-jae**, Secretary-General of the ICAPP)

- **Report** by **Hon. Suos Yara**, Director-General of the ACC, Member of Parliament from the Cambodian People's Party, and Vice-Chairman of the Commission on Foreign Affairs, International Cooperation, Information and Media of the National Assembly of Cambodia (5 minutes)
- **Video Documentary of the ACC** (5 minutes)
- **Video Documentary of TECHO 100 Village Project** (5 minutes)

06:30 – 07:40 AM SESSION 1: Investing in Culture and Creativity for Inclusive Growth
(Moderator: **Hon. Cho Byung-jae**, Secretary-General of the ICAPP)

- **Remarks** by **Hon. Andrey Klimov**, Vice-Chairperson of the ICAPP Standing Committee, Vice-Chairperson of the ACC, and Deputy Secretary General of the United Russia Party on International Affairs (3 minutes)
- **First Keynote Speaker – United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)**: Mr. Sardar Umar Alam, Head of Office and UNESCO Representative to Cambodia (7 minutes)
- **Second Keynote Speaker – Asian Vision Institute**: Dr. Piseth Keo, Vice-President of the Asian Vision Institute, Cambodia (7 minutes)
- **Remarks** by representatives of approximately 15 political parties and observers (3 minutes each)

07:40 – 08:50 AM SESSION 2: Promoting Culture-Innovation Nexus
(Moderator: **Hon. Cho Byung-jae**, Secretary-General of the ICAPP)

- **Remarks** by **Hon. Guo Yezhou**, Vice-Chairperson of the ICAPP Standing Committee, Vice-Chairperson of the ACC, and Vice-Minister of the International Department of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China (3 minutes)
- **First Keynote Speaker – United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS)**: Ms. Sandrine Capelle-Manuel, Multi-Country Office Director of UNOPS, Asia Region, in Cambodia (7 minutes)

- **Second Keynote Speaker – UNESCO**: Dr. Masanori Nagaoka, Programme Specialist for Culture at the UNESCO Office in Phnom Penh (7 minutes)
- **Remarks** by representatives of approximately 15 political parties and observers (3 minutes each)

08:50 – 09:00 AM CLOSING SESSION
(Moderator: **Hon. Cho Byung-jae**, Secretary-General of the ICAPP)

- **Adoption of the Phnom Penh Declaration** on «**Cultural Cooperation and Innovation for Shared Prosperity During COVID-19 and Beyond**» (3 minutes)
- **Conclusion** by **Hon. Cho Byung-jae**, Secretary-General of the ICAPP (2 minutes)
- **Closing Remarks** by **Hon. Sujata Koirala**, Vice-Chairperson of the ACC, Member of the ICAPP Standing Committee, Member of Parliament from the Nepali Congress Party, former Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Nepal (3 minutes)

Appendix VII-2

List of Participants of the 2nd Meeting of the Asian Cultural Council

Political Parties (19 Countries, 25 Political Parties)

1. **Cambodia**

   1) **Cambodian People's Party (CPP)** (10)

   - Hon. Khuon Sudary, Vice-Chairperson of the ICAPP Standing Committee, Chairperson of the ACC, Member of the Standing Committee of the CPP, and Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly of Cambodia
   - Hon. Suos Yara, Director-General of the ACC, Member of Parliament from the CPP, and Vice-Chairman of the Commission on Foreign Affairs, International Cooperation and Media of the National Assembly of Cambodia
   - Hon. Kheav Sambat, Deputy Director-General of the National Authority for Preah Vihear, Cambodia
   - Hon. Lim Bunhok, former Secretary General of the Cambodian National Commission for UNESCO
   - Hon. Dr. Chhair Sokty, Head of the Secretariat of the Commission for International Relations of the CPP
   - Hon. Dr. Eng Kokthay, Under Secretary of State of the Office of the Council of Ministers of Cambodia
   - Hon. Hok Bunly, Deputy Head of the Secretariat of the Commission for International Relations of the CPP
   - Hon. Ly Chanrainsey, Member of the ICAPP-ACC Cambodia Secretariat
   - Ms. Lim Sreynith, Member of the ICAPP-ACC Cambodia Secretariat
   - Ms. Pov Yousim, Member of the ICAPP-ACC Cambodia Secretariat

2. **China**

   2) **Communist Party of China (CPC)** (1)

   - Hon. Guo Yezhou, Vice-Chairperson of the ICAPP Standing Committee, Vice-Chairperson of the ACC, and Vice Minister of the International Department of the Central Committee of CPC

3. **Cyprus**

   3) **Democratic Rally Party *(DISY)*** (1)

   - Hon. Maria Kokkinou-Boege, Representative of *DISY* to the European People's Party in Brussels

   4) **Progressive Party of the Working People *(AKEL)*** (1)

   - Mr. Costas Costa, Head of the Cultural Bureau of *AKEL*

4. **India**

   5) **Indian National Congress** (1)

   - Hon. Manish Tewari, Member of Parliament and Senior Leader of the Indian National Congress and former Union Minister for Information and Broadcasting of India

5. Indonesia

***6) Golkar* Party** (5)

- Mr. Justino Jogo, Member of the *Golkar* Party
- Mr. Lucky Ali Moerfiqin, Member of the *Golkar* Party
- Mr. Rene Manembu, Secretary of the Council of Experts of the *Golkar* Party
- Ms. Emmalia Natar, Member of the Women's Wing of the *Golkar* Party
- Ms. Chandra Kusuma Dewi, Member of the Women's Wing of the *Golkar* Party

6. Iran

***7)* Islamic *Motalefeh* Party** (1)

- Mr. Mohammad Mahdi TinaiTehrani, Deputy of the International Department of the Islamic *Motalefeh* Party

7. Japan

***8)* Japanese Communist Party (JCP)** (1)

- Ms. Tomoyo Mitsukawa, Staff Member of the International Commission of the JCP

8. Korea, Republic of

***9)* Democratic Party of Korea** (1)

- Hon. Lim Okyeong, Member of the National Assembly from the Democratic Party of Korea

***10)* People Power Party** (1)

- Hon. Seung Hee Hwang Bo, Member of the National Assembly from the People Power Party

9. Laos

***11)* Lao People's Revolutionary Party (Lao PRP)** (7)

- Hon. Somphone Sichaleune, Vice-Chairman of the Committee for External Relations, Central Committee of Lao PRP
- Hon. Boua Ngeun Xaphouvong, Deputy Minister of the Ministry of Information, Culture and Tourism of Laos, Member of Lao PRP
- Mr. Khamefeuang Phanthaxay, Acting Director General of the Research and Information Department of Lao PRP
- Mr. Somkiethtisak Kingsada, Director of the International Organization Division, Department of Planning and International Cooperation of the Ministry of Information, Culture and Tourism, and Member of Lao PRP
- Mr. Thongsavath Phanthavong, Director of the Multilateral Relations Division of the Committee for External Relations, Central Committee of Lao PRP
- Ms. Vilatda Chansomphou, Desk Officer of the Multilateral Relations Division of the Committee for External Relations, Central Committee of Lao PRP
- Ms. Khanhpaseuth Svengsucksa, Desk Officer of the Multilateral Relations Division of the Committee for External Relations, Central Committee of Lao PRP

10. Lebanon

***12)* Free Patriotic Movement (FPM)** (1)

- Hon. Youssef Awad, Member of the ICAPP Standing Committee and Coordinator for Asia and Overseas of FPM

13) **Future Movement** (1)
- Hon. Fadi Fawaz, Member of the ICAPP Standing Committee, Advisor for Development Affairs to Hon. Saad Hariri, Prime Minister of Lebanon, and Member of Future Movement

11. Malaysia

14) **Democratic Action Party (DAP)** (1)
- Hon. Soon Hin Yeoh, Penang State Deputy Secretary, Penang State Government Executive Councilor for Tourism and Creative Economy, and Member of DAP

15) **Malaysian Chinese Association (MCA)** (3)
- Hon. Dr. Tee Ching Seng, Chairman of the International Communication and Diplomacy Bureau of MCA
- Ms. Yap Siok Moy, Member of the Central Committee of MCA
- Hon. Dato' Lim Chin Hai, Chief Administrative Director of MCA Headquarters

12. Mongolia

16) **Mongolian People's Party (MPP)** (2)
- Mr. Tselmuun Manlaijav, Head of the International Relations Department of the MPP
- Ms. Khishigjargal Enkhbayar, Foreign Relations Officer of the MPP

13. Myanmar

17) **Union Solidarity and Development Party (USDP)** (1)
- Hon. U Tin Oo Lwin, Member of the ICAPP Standing Committee, Member of the Central Committee of USDP, and former Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Myanmar

14. Nepal

18) **Nepali Congress Party** (1)
- Hon. Sujata Koirala, Vice-Chairperson of the ACC, Member of the ICAPP Standing Committee, Member of Parliament from the Nepali Congress Party, former Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Nepal

19) **Communist Party of Nepal (Unified Marxist-Leninist) (CPN-UML)** (2)
- Hon. Jhala Nath Khanal, Member of the ICAPP Standing Committee, Senior Leader of the CPN-UML, and former Prime Minister of Nepal
- Mr. Yogendra Bahadur Shahi, Member of the Provincial Committee and Karnali Province Planning Commission of CPN-UML

15. Russia

20) **United Russia Party** (1)
- Hon. Andrey Klimov, Vice-Chairperson of the ICAPP Standing Committee, Vice-Chairperson of the ACC, and Deputy Secretary General of the United Russia Party on International Affairs

16. Sri Lanka

21) **United National Party (UNP)** (2)
- Hon. Daya Dharmapala Kilittuwa Gamage, Member of the ICAPP Standing Committee, Senior Deputy Chairman of UNP and former Minister of Primary Industries and Social Empowerment of Sri Lanka

- Hon. Dr. Anoma Gamage, Assistant Secretary of UNP, former Deputy Minister of Irrigation and Agriculture and former State Minister of Petroleum Resources and Development of Sri Lanka

17. Thailand

***22) Pheu Thai* Party** (1)

- Hon. Dr. Nalinee Taveesin, Member of the ICAPP Standing Committee, former Thailand Trade Representative, former Minister attached to the Prime Minister's Office of Thailand, and Member of *Pheu Thai* Party

***23)* Democrat Party** (1)

- Hon. Prakob Chirakiti, former Member of Parliament from the Democrat Party and former Vice Minister attached to the Office of Prime Minister of Thailand

18. Turkey

***24) AK* Party** (2)

- Hon. Afif Demirkiran, Deputy Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Department of *AK* Party
- Hon. Cigdem Karaaslan, Deputy Chairperson of *AK* Party, Chairperson of the Environment, Urban and Culture Department of *AK* Party, and Member of Parliament

19. Vietnam

***25)* Communist Party of Vietnam** (1)

- Hon. Manh Cuong Nguyen, Member of the ICAPP Standing Committee, Member of the Central Committee, Vice Chairman of the Commission for External Relations of the Central Committee of Communist Party of Vietnam

Observers (10)

1. **Asian Vision Institute (AVI)** (4)
   - Dr. Piseth Keo, Vice-President of AVI, Cambodia
   - Hon. Dr. Chheang Vannarith, President of AVI
   - Hon. Dr. Chheng Kimlong, Member of the National Assembly Advisory Council and Director of the Center for Governance Innovation and Democracy of AVI
   - Dr. Nguonphan Pheakdey, Director of the Center for Culture and Peace Studies of AVI

2. **Government of Cambodia** (2)
   - Hon. Teruo Jinnai, Special Advisor to the Government of Cambodia
   - Hon. Helen Jarvi, Advisor to the Government of Cambodia

3. **United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)** (3)
   - Mr. Sardar Umar Alam, Head of Office and UNESCO Representative to Cambodia
   - Mr. Masanori Nagaoka, Programme Specialist for Culture at the UNESCO office in Phnom Penh, Cambodia
   - Ms. Baik Seung Kyung, Associate Programme Specialist, UNESCO

4. **United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS)** (1)
   - Ms. Sandrine Capelle-Manuel, Director of the Multi Country Office of UNOPS Cambodia

Office of the Founder of the ICAPP (1)

- Hon. Jose de Venecia, Jr., Founder of the ICAPP, Co-Chairman of the ICAPP Standing Committee, former Speaker of the House of Representatives of Philippines

ICAPP Secretariat (6)

- Hon. Cho Byung-jae, Secretary-General of the ICAPP, former Ambassador of the Republic of Korea to Malaysia and Myanmar, former Chancellor of Korea National Diplomatic Academy
- Ms. Park Hyun-ryang, Director of the Secretariat
- Ms. Jeong Sang-myoung, Administrative Officer
- Ms. Seojin Lee, Program Director
- Mr. Kim Deok-su, Program Officer
- Ms. Kim Hee Young, Program Officer

Appendix VII-3

Phnom Penh Declaration
Cultural Cooperation and Innovation for Shared Prosperity
During Covid-19 and Beyond

We, the members of the International Conference of Asian Political Parties (ICAPP), convened the 2nd ACC Meeting on 19 March 2021 via video conferencing. The meeting was co-hosted by the ICAPP and ACC Secretariats. We recalled the spirit of the Siem Reap Declaration for Culture of Peace, Sustainable Development, Human Connectivity, and Innovation, which was adopted unanimously at the launch of the ACC on 15 January 2019.

We highly appreciate the visionary leadership of Samdech Techo Hun Sen, Honorary Founding Chairman of the ACC; Hon. Muhammad Jusuf Kalla, former Vice President of the Republic of Indonesia; Hon. Khadga Prasad Sharma Oli, Prime Minister of the Republic of Nepal; Hon. Jose de Venecia Jr., Founder of the ICAPP and Co-Chairman of the ICAPP Standing Committee; Hon. Chung Eui-yong, Co-Chairman of the ICAPP Standing Committee and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Korea, and other prominent political leaders from Asia for their tireless efforts and commitments to the ACC.

We acknowledge and applaud the significant contributions of the Bureau Members of ICAPP and ACC in leading and facilitating the important works of the ACC. We also express our appreciation to the Asian Development Bank, the Civil Society Alliance Forum, the Asian Vision Institute and all other stakeholders for their support and partnership to deliver on ACC projects. Moreover, we appreciate the keynote speakers from UNESCO, UNOPS, and the Asian Vision Institute for sharing their insights at today's meeting.

We reiterate our commitment to upholding the people's rights and dignity and placing people's interests at the front and centre of national development and international cooperation. In light of the post-COVID-19 recovery, we stress the importance of promoting culture-based development and culture-innovation nexus.

We reiterate our determination, as was expressed in the 2019 Siem Reap Declaration, to uphold the purposes and principles of the United Nations Charter, the UNESCO Constitution, the Charter of ICAPP, the Cooperation Agreement between UNESCO and ICAPP, and the spirit of international cooperation based on the principles of mutual respect, mutual understanding and mutual interest (3M4PEACE) in order to achieve peaceful coexistence, equal sovereignty, non-interference in internal affairs, advancement of technology and innovation, constructive dialogue and economic prosperity.

We pledge to further advance our joint efforts and collaboration in promoting unity within the context of diversity, interfaith and religious harmony, as well as advancing inclusive social progress through socialising and promoting cooperative norms, cultural identity, and the values of humanity.

To realise the goals of achieving peaceful, sustainable, inclusive and resilient societies in Asia and to pursue collectively cultural cooperation and innovation for shared prosperity during COVID-19 and beyond, we thereby declare:

Global Cooperation

1. We commit to mobilising our strengths and resources to leverage our cultural richness and diversity to rebuild our economies more robustly and resiliently following the COVID-19 pandemic.

2. We encourage multi-stakeholder dialogues and partnerships to foster creativity and innovation in culture and creative industries so as to create job opportunities for local people and to promote their communities and neighbourhoods.

3. We underscore the importance of international cooperation and partnership under both bilateral and multilateral frameworks in promoting culture-based development, culture-innovation nexus, and people-centred development.

4. We emphasise a whole-of-society approach in responding to societal needs and supporting social adaptation and resilience during times of crises such as social and technological disruptions and restriction on people's mobility caused by the pandemic.

Innovation, Technology, and Creative Industries for Shared Prosperity

5. We acknowledge the need to promote more investments in culture-driven innovation and development. We encourage international collaboration to advance innovation in culture and in the creative industries for shared prosperity.

6. We stress the need for public-private-people partnerships in developing culture and creative industries so as to connect cultures and civilisations, especially to seize the opportunities stemming from the Fourth Industrial Revolution.

7. We recommend active participation of all actors in cultural preservation and development by way of their investments in cultural heritage will generate stronger bonds of friendship, relationship, and connectivity between and among cultures and civilisations.

8. We call upon all political parties, governments, public and private sectors and civil society organisations to promote research and innovation in culture and in the creative industries, so as to establish standards and practices that facilitate and enable social inclusion and inclusive growth.

9. We recognise the urgency of integrating and diffusing technologies in arts and cultures so as to uplift people's livelihoods through cultural and social innovations during COVID-19 and beyond.

Practical Cooperation

10. We encourage the mobilisation of financial resources in the form of trust funds or sustainable development funds through the support of international

organizations, private foundations, international development agencies as well as bilateral and multilateral schemes for cultural projects that respond to current and future needs of societies.

11. We foster cooperation in holding public events of cultural significance via virtual or physical platforms, with the emphasis on cultural initiatives including the Cultural Marathon, the Belt and Road Initiative, the UNESCO Silk Roads Programme, and other cultural networks and projects among member countries to promote lasting peace, harmony, and international cooperation.

12. We express our appreciation to the ICAPP and ACC Secretariats for the successful organization of the 2nd ACC Meeting. We also encourage the ACC to work closely with the think tanks, international organisations, civil society organisations, and private corporations to carry out the aforementioned commitments and explore innovative programmes such as the TECHO 100 Village Project to achieve sustainable growth, inclusive development, and shared prosperity for humanity.

Adopted on 19 March 2021.

Appendix VII-4

Cambodian People's Party
Central Committee

Independence, Peace, Freedom, Democracy
Neutrality and Social Progress

Congratulation Statement
Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen
Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia
President of the Cambodian People's Party

at the 2nd Asian Cultural Council Meeting
Video Conference, 19th March 2021

Phnom Penh, 19 March 2021

Taking this opportunity, I wish to thank all delegates for attending the Second Meeting of the Asian Cultural Council (ACC). The theme, Harnessing Culture and Innovation for Shared Prosperity During COVID-19 and Beyond, is very topical and significant.

Two years ago, the ACC was founded and launched in Siem Reap, Cambodia, with the aim to promote the linkages between culture and peace, sustainable development, human connectivity, and innovation. Our political commitment is clear: we work together to advance international dialogue and cooperation on culture-driven development and innovation to realize the Sustainable Development Goals.

Connecting people, connecting knowledge, and connecting actions are the key strategic interventions to bring about concrete results to the people. In this connection, people-centric development cooperation is our instrumental approach. We share a common purpose to support the ACC in becoming an essential institution in Asia in promoting peaceful, inclusive, sustainable, and resilient societies.

The Covid-19 pandemic is wreaking global havoc. Culture and creative industries (CCI) in particular have been hit hard due to lockdowns or restrictions on people mobility and gathering. The combat against the pandemic requires international solidarity and partnership. No country or society is safe unless we are all safe.

As we are forced to adapt to a new normal, it is imperative for us to be more innovative and visionary in transforming the crisis into an opportunity for reforms and progress. In this regard, investing in culture-based development and promoting innovation based on our rich cultural resources are some of our main policy options. For Cambodia, cultural tourism and culture-based innovation industry are our strength.

Today I am excited to witness the remarkable progress we have made in promoting the spirit of international cooperation based on the principles of mutual respect, mutual understanding and mutual interest (3M4PEACE) in order to achieve peaceful coexistence, equal sovereignty, non-interference in internal affairs, the advancement of technology and innovation, constructive dialogue and economic prosperity.

Finally, I would like to thank the ICAPP Secretariat together with UNESCO and the Asian Vision Institute for offering unwavering support to the Asian Cultural Council to realize its vision and mission. Together, we can walk far. Together, we can realize our potentials.

I wish all delegates longevity, nobility, health and strength.

HUN Sen
Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia
President of the Cambodian People's Party

Appendix VII-5

M. Jusuf Kalla

Congratulatory Statement by
Hon. Mohammad Jusuf Kalla
Former Vice-President of the Republic of Indonesia
Honorary Co-Founding Chairman of the Asian Cultural Council

at

The 2nd Meeting of the Asian Cultural Council
On the Theme:
"Harnessing Culture and Innovation for Shared Prosperity During Covid-19 and Beyond"
via Video Conference, 19 March 2021

Congratulations to the Asian Cultural Council (ACC) and the International Conference of Asian Political Parties (ICAPP) for the achievements made in the past two years. Although many activities have been disrupted by the Covid-19 pandemic, the ACC has managed to sustain some of its core activities, such as organizing this second meeting and implementing the TECHO 100 Villages project.

I believe that one of the critical factors to revive our economy and society in the post-Covid-19 era is to promote culture-based development, referring to the optimization of cultural resources in socio-economic development and poverty reduction. The key question here is how we can make culture a driver and enabler of sustainable and inclusive socio-economic recovery.

Cultural heritage, cultural and creative industries, sustainable cultural tourism, and cultural infrastructure development can serve as strategic tools for revenue generation in Asia, which is rich in cultural heritage. Culture is, therefore, a critical resource for us to build back more robust from the Covid-19 pandemic.

I wish the Second Meeting of the Asian Cultural Council a great success! I wish all participants good health and success in their endeavours.

Jakarta, 19 March 2021

M. Jusuf Kalla

Jl. Brawijaya Raya No. 6 Jakarta Selatan

Appendix VII-6

The Prime Minister

KATHMANDU
NEPAL

MESSAGE

Dear Friends and Distinguished Delegates,

I would like to extend warm greetings from Nepal for the success of the 2nd meeting of the Asian Cultural Council (ACC). I am delighted to see that despite the constraints posed by the COVID-19, the momentum of ACC continues. I congratulate the ACC and the International Conference of Asian Political Parties (ICAPP) for hosting the 2nd meeting of ACC and wish for its success.

The COVID-19 has caused unprecedented impact in the way we live, work, interact and communicate. This has come for us as an unavoidable reality with which we have to cope and move on. The pandemic has caused enormous disruption in our economies and the way we do our business. In order to be able to survive and thrive in the new normal, we need to find innovative ways and means and utilize them smartly. To live and prosper in the new normal requires finding of economically viable ways of doing things and a whole set of innovative ideas, methods and technology.

The pandemic has also brought in the surface the advantages of great cultural resources of Asia. We must be able to properly appreciate the cultural values that we Asians inherit and promote them to the advantage of our people during this difficult time of COVID-19 and thereafter.

The founding objectives of the ACC were about to harnessing cultural resources for prosperity. Two years ago, when we founded the ACC, it was our aspiration to promoting interlinkages between peace and connectivity for the realization of sustainable development goals. Connecting ideas, people and economies was our ambition. This can very much provide the basis for harnessing of cultures for economic activities and generation of sustainable revenue from cultural assets and infrastructures that we have in the Asian region.

I am confident that the second meeting of the ACC would deliberate on those potentials and other innovative ways for reviving of economies in the aftermath of COVID pandemic.

Once again, I extend my best wishes for the great success of the meeting.

21 March 2021

K P Sharma Oli

Appendix VIII

ICAPP Work Program for the Remainder of 2021

As of 20 April 2021

1. **2nd Special Video Conference on the COVID-19 Pandemic**
   - Venue & Date: Online Conference / May 2021
   - Host: ICAPP Secretariat

2. **6th Meeting of the ICAPP Youth Wing and 7th Meeting of the ICAPP Women's Wing**
   - Venue & Date: Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia / September 2021
   - Host: Mongolian People's Party (MPP)

3. **11th Meeting of the ICAPP General Assembly and the "20th Founding Anniversary" Event**
   - Venue & Date: Istanbul, Turkey / October 2021
   - Host: *AK Parti*

4. **36th Meeting of the ICAPP Standing Committee**
   - Venue & Date: Istanbul, Turkey / October 2021
   - Host: *AK Parti*

5. **5th Meeting of the ICAPP Media Forum**
   - Venue & Date: Istanbul, Turkey / October 2021
   - Host: *AK Parti*

6. **4th Trilateral Meeting among the ICAPP-*COPPPAL*-CAPP**
   - Venue & Date: Istanbul, Turkey / October 2021
   - Host: *AK Parti*

7. **2nd Meeting of the ICAPP Tourism Promotion and Inter-City Cooperation (TOPIC) Council**
   - Venue & Date: Istanbul, Turkey / October 2021
   - Host: *AK Parti*

8. **4th Meeting of the Asia-Europe Political Forum (AEPF)**
   - Venue & Date: Prague, Czech Republic / November 2021
   - Host: European Conservatives and Reformists (ECR) Group

9. **Special Conference on "Security and Cooperation: Role of Political Parties"**
   - Venue & Date: Baku, Azerbaijan / 26 November or 3 December 2021
   - Host: New Azerbaijan Party

Appendix IX

(Draft) Concept Paper for the 2nd Special Video Conference on the COVID-19 Pandemic

As of 23 April 2021

Background

On 25 May 2020, the members of the ICAPP Standing Committee (SC) participated in the 1st Special Video Conference on the COVID-19 Pandemic, which focused on the "Impact of the COVID-19 and the Role of Asian Political Parties." After the meeting, the SC Members agreed to consider a follow-up conference to continue the discussions on this important topic.

During the 34th SC Meeting, which was held on 25 November 2020, the SC Members suggested that the Secretariat organize the follow-up conference in 2021. Thereafter, during the 35th SC Meeting, which was held on 21 April 2021, it was decided that the conference would be organized in late May.

Developments since the 1st Special Video Conference on the COVID-19 Pandemic

Since the 1st Special Video Conference on the COVID-19 Pandemic, the number of COVID-19 cases has stayed at elevated levels according to the data published by the World Health Organization (WHO). A recent WHO article suggests that despite the development of COVID-19 vaccines, stopping the spread of the virus continues to be top priority, and that measures to reduce transmission, including social distancing, must be maintained.[1]

Meanwhile, the pandemic is expected to have a lasting impact on both global health and the socio-economic conditions of populations across the world. The ongoing waves of COVID-19 infections continue to keep governments on alert as policymakers struggle with the difficult task of juggling economic recovery and the protection of public health.

At the moment, there are concerns about an uneven global recovery due to stark gaps in the availability of COVID-19 vaccines across different countries. Governments, the private sector, international organizations, NGOs and other relevant stakeholders will need to cooperate to ensure the effective procurement and equitable distribution of vaccines in all countries.

Some groups of society such as women, the elderly, youth, and children, persons with disabilities, indigenous populations, refugees, migrants, and minorities are deemed to be experiencing a higher degree of socio-economic marginalization due to the pandemic. Therefore, there is a pressing need to include such marginalized and vulnerable populations in risk communication and community engagement during the crisis.[2]

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[1] WHO article: "The effects of virus variants on COVID-19 vaccines": https://www.who.int/news-room/feature-stories/detail/the-effects-of-virus-variants-on-covid-19-vaccines?gclid=CjwKCAjw6qqDBhB-EiwACBs6x7iXfdLUlAmwwti3kBlUE99P0tkYt_4fjMF8-x0tz6Yw4yOjRMtl4BoC7WwQAvD_BwE

[2] UN Women Report: "COVID-19: How to include marginalized and vulnerable people in risk communication and community engagement", https://asiapacific.unwomen.org/-/media/field%20office%20eseasia/docs/publications/2020/03/ap-covid-19_community-engagement_130320.pdf?la=en&vs=5323

Objectives

Given the previous discussions from the "1st Special Video Conference on the COVID-19 Pandemic, the Secretariat believes that it will be appropriate to organize a follow-up conference with a focus on the following topics:

(1) Building a more effective regional and global response to the COVID-19 pandemic

- *Expanding equitable access to COVID-19 tools such as vaccines, diagnostics, and therapeutics across all countries regardless of their income levels*
- *Enhancing collaboration between the public and private sectors in areas such as testing, tracing and treatment*
- *Working with international organizations to improve emergency response and strengthen capacity of public health systems*

(2) Achieving an inclusive economic recovery in the post-COVID-19 environment

- *Envisioning and adapting to the post-COVID-19 economic landscape*
- *Supporting small and medium enterprises during and after the economic downturn*
- *Providing support to the vulnerable and marginalized groups of society*

Program

The **2nd Special Video Conference on the COVID-19 Pandemic** will be held as an online over Zoom on Tuesday, 25 May 2021 due to travel constraints and social distancing rules.

GMT	***Session***
06:00	*Opening Session*
	(Moderator: Hon. Cho Byung-jae, Secretary-General of the ICAPP)
-	*Introduction by Hon. Cho Byung-jae, Secretary-General of the ICAPP (3 minutes)*
-	*Welcoming remarks by Hon. Jose de Venecia, Jr., Founder of the ICAPP and Co-Chairman of the ICAPP Standing Committee, former Speaker of the House of Representatives of the Philippines (3 minutes)*
06:10	*First Session*
	(Moderator: Hon. Cho Byung-jae, Secretary-General of the ICAPP)
-	*Keynote presentation and Q&A with an expert from an international organization (20 minutes)*
-	*Presentation by representatives of approximately 15 political parties and observers (3 minutes each)*
07:30	*Second Session*
	(Moderator: Hon. Cho Byung-jae, Secretary-General of the ICAPP)
-	*Keynote presentation and Q&A with an expert from an international organization (20 minutes)*
-	*Presentation by representatives of approximately 15 political parties and observers (3 minutes each)*
08:50	*Closing Session*
	(Moderator: Hon. Cho Byung-jae, Secretary-General of the ICAPP)
-	*Adoption of the statement (3 minutes)*
-	*Conclusion by Hon. Cho Byung-jae, Secretary-General of the ICAPP (2 minutes)*
-	*Closing remarks by Hon. Mushahid Hussain Sayed, Vice Chairperson and Special Rapporteur of the ICAPP Standing Committee, Chairman of the Senate Committee on Foreign Affairs, Pakistan Muslim League-N (3 minutes)*

Participants

Members of the ICAPP and observers will be invited to participate in the discussions. Representatives of government agencies and international organizations will also be invited to share best practices, case studies and technical advice. Observers from the Council of African Political Parties (CAPP), Permanent Conference of Political Parties in Latin America and Caribbean (*COPPPAL*), and the Asia Europe Political Forum (AEPF) will also be invited to speak during the conference.

Rules of Procedure

Given the time difference amongst participants and the remote setting, the ICAPP Secretariat inevitably needs to consider more time constraints than the in-person conferences. As such, the Secretariat has prepared rules of procedure for the conference as follows:

Structure

- There will be two keynote presentations by experts from international organizations – one presentation for each session.
- There will be one speaker from each participating political party across both sessions (not one speaker per party per session).
- For each session, the number of speakers will not exceed twenty (20) due to time constraints.
- The list of speakers ("Speaker List") will be in the order of registration forms received.

Statement and Final Report

- A statement with policy recommendations for political parties will be adopted at the closing session after consultations with participants. The draft of the statement will be prepared and circulated by the Secretariat in advance of the conference.
- All participating political parties are requested to submit any comments or suggestions on the draft of the statement to the Secretariat at secretariat@theicapp.org by ***Monday, 24 May 2021.*** Any comments received after this date will not be incorporated due to logistical difficulties of an online conference. This will allow the Secretariat to prepare a final copy of the draft statement ahead of the conference.
- A separate final report summarizing key outcomes of the discussions will be prepared and circulated by the Secretariat after the conference.

Time Limit per Participant

- Each keynote speaker will be allocated not more than twenty (20) minutes for the presentation and Q&A session combined.
- During the first and second sessions, representatives of political parties and observers will be allocated not more than three (3) minutes each for their remarks. A timer will be set on the screen to indicate how much time has elapsed.
- There will be no recess throughout the conference.

Pre-Requisites for Participation

- All delegates who would like to participate in the conference will be asked to complete their registration forms and send them to the Secretariat at secretariat@theicap.org by ***Friday, 21 May 2021***. The registration form includes a section where participants can sign

up to speak during the conference. A separate registration form is required for each participant.

- All participants who signed up to speak are requested to send their speeches/presentations to the Secretariat at secretariat@theicapp.org by ***Friday, 28 May 2021***, so that they may be included in the final report.
- The Speaker List will be circulated by the Secretariat in advance of the conference.

Working Language

- The conference will be conducted in English in accordance with Article 15 of the ICAPP Charter.
- Participants will be responsible for their own interpreters should they require such services. However, please note that the same time limit will be applied to all participants regardless of their use of interpreter services. As such, simultaneous rather than consecutive interpretation is recommended.

Appendix X

International Conference of Asian Political Parties

Statement by Hon. Jose de Venecia, Jr., Founder of the ICAPP and Co-Chairman of the ICAPP Standing Committee, and Hon. Cho Byung-jae, Secretary-General of the ICAPP, on 2 February 2021

We are greatly concerned by reports that the military authorities of Myanmar have detained multiple civilian government leaders, including State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, and civil society leaders. These developments represent an unfortunate retreat of democracy in Myanmar.

We urge the military authorities of Myanmar to release all government officials and civil society leaders and restore democracy and stability as soon as possible. Also, we hope that the tensions among all parties will be resolved through peaceful dialogue.

Myanmar has been an active member of the ICAPP. We sincerely hope the Standing Committee Members of the ICAPP from Myanmar, Hon. U Mahn Jonny representing National League for Democracy, and Hon. U Wunna Maung Lwin representing Union Solidarity and Development Party, will be able to continue their participation in the ICAPP activities.

We reaffirm our strong support to the people of Myanmar in their pursuit of democracy, peace, and the rule of law.

Appendix XI

NEWSLETTER

ICAPP

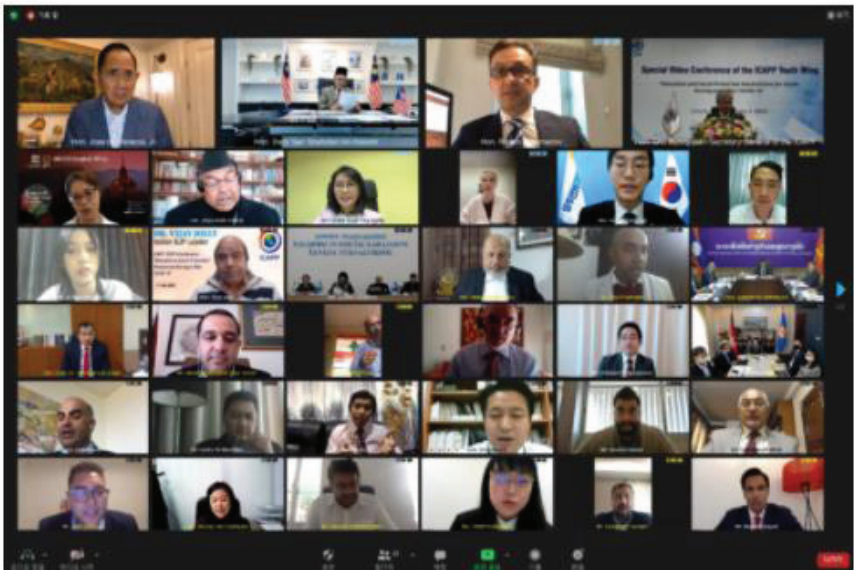
International Conference of Asian Political Parties — April 2021

Special Video Conference of the ICAPP Youth Wing

Education and Social Protection Mechanisms for Youth During and After COVID-19
[3 February 2021]

The "Special Video Conference of the ICAPP Youth Wing: Education and Social Protection Mechanisms for Youth During and After COVID-19" was held online on Wednesday, 3 February 2021.

Representatives of 33 political parties from 24 countries gathered at the meeting. Delegates from *COPPPAL*, CAPP and ACC attended the Conference as observers. Also, experts from UNESCO and ILO joined as keynote speakers to present on the topics of youth education and employment. Read More



Special Video Conference of the ICAPP Women's Wing

Women's Empowerment During and After COVID-19
[24 February 2021]

The "Special Video Conference of the ICAPP Women's Wing: Women's Empowerment During and After COVID-19" was held online on Wednesday, 24 February 2021.

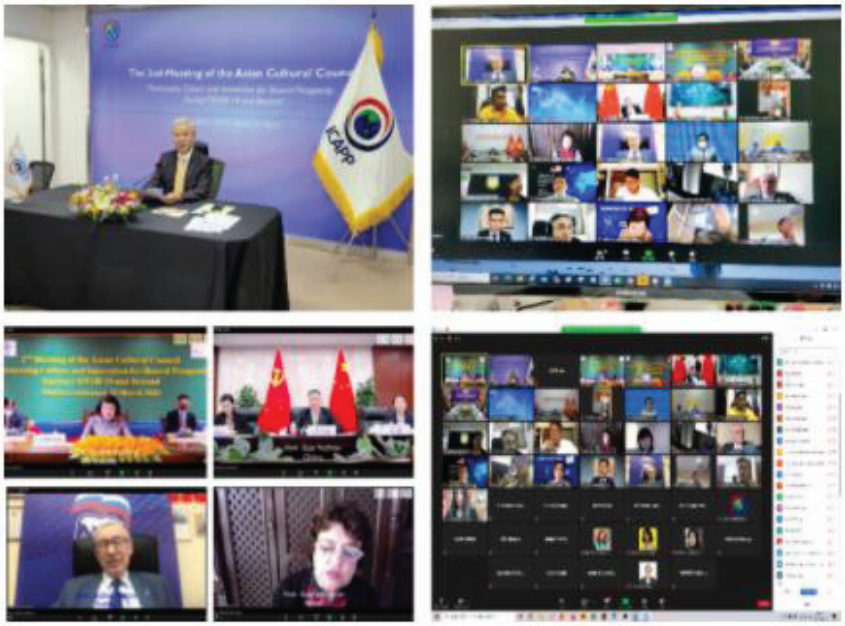
Representatives of 32 political parties from 22 countries gathered at the meeting. Delegates of *COPPPAL* and ACC attended the Conference as observers. UN Women and UNESCAP participated in the Conference by nominating keynote speakers to present on the topics of economic insecurity experienced by women and gender-based violence. Read More

2nd Meeting of the Asian Cultural Council

Harnessing Culture and Innovation for Shared Prosperity During COVID-19 and Beyond
[19 March 2021]

The "2nd Asian Cultural Council Meeting: Harnessing Culture and Innovation for Shared Prosperity During COVID-19 and Beyond" was held online on Friday, 19 March 2021.

Representatives of 25 political parties from 19 countries gathered at the meeting. UNESCO, UNOPS and AVI participated in the Meeting by nominating keynote speakers to present on the topics of investment in the cultural sector and culture-innovation nexus. Read More



Updates

[Statement] Hon. Jose de Venecia, Founder of the ICAPP and Co-Chairman of the ICAPP Standing Committee, and Hon. Cho Byung-jae, Secretary-General of the ICAPP, issued a statement, urging Myanmar's military to release detained civilian leaders, including State Counsellor Aung San Suu Kyi, and to restore democracy in the country. Read More

[New Appointments] Hon. Chung Eui-yong, Co-Chairman of the ICAPP Standing Committee, was appointed as Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Korea. Read More

New SC Member (Myanmar) - Hon. U Tin Oo Lwin, Union Solidarity and Development Party Read More

New SC Member (Nepal) - Hon. Dr. Rajan Bhattarai, Communist Party of Nepal (UML) Read More

[Congratulatory Letter] The 13th National Congress of the Communist Party of Vietnam (Congress XIII) was held from 25 January to 1 February 2021 in Hanoi, Vietnam.

On behalf of the ICAPP, Hon. Jose de Venecia, Founder of the ICAPP and Co-Chairman of the ICAPP Standing Committee, Hon. Chung Eui-yong, Co-Chairman of the ICAPP Standing Committee, and Hon. Cho Byung-jae, Secretary General of the ICAPP sent a joint congratulatory letter to the Communist Party of Vietnam on the occasion.

Upcoming ICAPP Activities for 2021

- 35th Meeting of the ICAPP Standing Committee in April
- 2nd Special Video Conference on the COVID-19 Pandemic in May
- 11th ICAPP General Assembly in September
- 36th Meeting of the ICAPP Standing Committee in September
- 5th Meeting of the ICAPP Media Forum in September
- 4th Trilateral Meeting among the ICAPP-*COPPPAL*-CAPP in September
- 2nd Meeting of the ICAPP Tourism Promotion and Inter-City Cooperation (TOPIC) Council in September
- 6th Meeting of the ICAPP Youth Wing and 7th Meeting of the ICAPP Women's Wing in September or October
- 4th Meeting of the Asia-Europe Political Forum in November
- Special Conference on "Security and Cooperation: Role of Political Parties" in November or December

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As of April 2021

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	Hon. KHUON Sudary ▶Vice Chairperson of the Standing Committee ▶Member of Standing Committee of the Cambodian People's Party and Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly of **Cambodia**		**Hon. GUO Yezhou** ▶Vice Chairperson of the Standing Committee ▶Vice Minister of the International Department of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of **China**
	Hon. Mushahid HUSSAIN SAYED ▶Vice Chairperson and Special Rapporteur of the Standing Committee ▶Chairman of Senate Committee on Foreign Affairs, Pakistan Muslim League-N, **Pakistan**		**Hon. Andrey KLIMOV** ▶Vice Chairperson of the Standing Committee ▶Deputy Secretary General of the United Russia Party on International Affairs, **Russia**
Secretariat			
	Hon. CHO Byung-Jae ▶Secretary-General of the ICAPP Secretariat and the Coordination Secretariat of the ICAPP-COPPPAL-CAPP ▶Former Chancellor of Korea National Diplomatic Academy and Former Ambassador to Malaysia and Myanmar, Republic of **Korea**		
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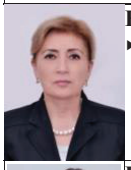	**Hon. Dr. Malahat IBRAHIMQIZI** ▸Member of Parliament and Member of Political Council of *Yeni (*New) Azerbaijan Party, Deputy Chair of **Committee** on Legal Policy and State Building of Parliament of Azerbaijan, Republic of **Azerbaijan**		**Hon. MU Hong** ▸Director General, International Department of the All-China Federation, Communist Party of **China**
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ICAPP Charter and Major Understandings

ICAPP Charter

(As adopted at the 4th General Assembly on September 10, 2006 and amended at the 5th General Assembly on September 26, 2009, amended at the 7th General Assembly on November 23, 2012 and amended at the 8th General Assembly on September 19, 2014)

PREAMBLE

We, the leaders and representatives of political parties in Asia, gathered for the Fourth General Assembly of the International Conference of Asian Political Parties (hereinafter referred to as the "ICAPP") in Seoul, Republic of Korea, from September 7 to 10, 2006,

UPHOLDING the United Nations' Charter, and the principles of mutual respect for territorial integrity and sovereignty, mutual non-aggression, mutual non-interference in each other's internal affairs, equality and mutual benefit, and peaceful co-existence;

RECOGNIZING the immense potential of Asia to become the political, economic, and social center of the global stage in the twenty first century if permanent peace and shared prosperity is achieved in the region

REALIZING that challenges in Asia can be more efficiently and effectively addressed if the political leaders of the region unite through sustained dialogue by building mutual confidence and fellowship, by seeking political consensus through consultation and sharing of experiences, and by developing common political strategies

RECALLING that a regularly held gathering of political leaders in the region is an effective tool in seeing the potential of Asia become a reality since it fosters such sustained dialogue

HAVING HELD the First General Assembly of the ICAPP in September 2000 in Manila, Republic of the Philippines, followed by the Second and Third General Assemblies in Bangkok, Kingdom of Thailand in November 2002 and Beijing, People's Republic of China in September 2004, respectively

DO HEREBY PROCLAIM that the Articles set forth in this Charter shall govern the objectives, institutional arrangements, and activities of the ICAPP.

ARTICLES

CHAPTER I. OBJECTIVES

Article 1

The objectives of the ICAPP shall be:

a. to promote exchanges and cooperation between political parties with various ideologies in Asia;
b. to enhance mutual understanding and trust among the peoples and countries in the region;
c. to promote regional cooperation through the unique role and channel of political parties and
d. to create an environment for sustained peace and shared prosperity in the region.

CHAPTER II. MEMBERSHIP

Article 2

1. The ICAPP shall be open to political parties in Asia with democratically elected members in the parliaments of their respective countries, which are Member States of the United Nations.

2. Under certain circumstances, the Standing Committee of the ICAPP (hereinafter referred to as the "Standing Committee") may decide to extend invitations to organizations or groups, which do not fulfill the criteria above, to participate in the activities of the ICAPP, as Observers, including attending the General Assembly of the ICAPP (hereinafter referred to as the "General Assembly"), in the interests of rendering the activities of the ICAPP more inclusive and representative of the diversities existing in Asia.

Article 3

1. For the purposes of this Charter, the term "parliament" shall mean any national body performing legislative functions of that country. The term "political party" shall mean any political organization which has been legally formed and recognized in the respective countries.

CHAPTER III. GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Article 4

1. In furtherance of the objectives of the ICAPP, as prescribed in Article 1 of this Charter, a General Assembly shall be held once every two (2) years on a rotational basis among its members, unless otherwise decided by the Standing Committee. It shall be held, in principle, for three (3) working days in the latter half of the year.

2. The General Assembly shall be, in principle, composed of the following program:
   a. Opening Ceremony;
   b. Plenary Session and Thematic Committee meetings;
   c. Special Workshops and other events upon the approval of the Standing Committee
   d. Standing Committee meetings; and
   e. Closing Ceremony

Article 5

1. All members interested in hosting the following General Assembly shall submit written notification to the Standing Committee before the conclusion of the previous General Assembly.

2. The venue and the host(s) for the following General Assembly shall be determined by consensus at the Standing Committee meeting.

Article 6

1. The main theme and up to three (3) sub themes of the General Assembly, which are consistent with the objectives of the ICAPP, shall be proposed by the host(s) and approved by the Standing Committee.

2. The main theme of the General Assembly shall be discussed at the Plenary Session. The sub themes of the General Assembly shall be discussed at the Thematic Committee meetings.

3. Any member may submit proposals for the main theme and sub themes of the General Assembly to the Standing Committee. Such proposals must be made in writing before the conclusion of the previous General Assembly.

4. In addition to the Plenary Session and the Thematic Committee meetings held during the General Assembly, special workshops on specific issues, which are relevant to the ICAPP, may be held upon the approval of the Standing Committee.

Article 7

1. The Bureau of the General Assembly (hereinafter referred to as the "Bureau") shall be comprised of one (1) Chairperson and up to five (5) Vice Chairpersons for the Plenary Session, and (1) Chairperson and up to three (3) Vice Chairpersons for each Thematic Committee meeting. The list of candidates for the Bureau will be prepared by the Standing Committee and recommended to the General Assembly for its approval at the Opening Ceremony by consensus.

2. The Chairpersons of the Plenary Session and the Thematic Committee meetings shall prepare the list of speakers at the Plenary Sessions and Thematic Committee meetings in accordance with the order of application or request from the members.

3. In case that the General Assembly is co-hosted by two or more number of political parties of a country, the Bureau of the General Assembly may be comprised of Co-Chairpersons.

Article 8

1. The political party, or parties, hosting the General Assembly shall bear the primary expenses of the General Assembly.

2. The primary expenses include logistical arrangements for the General Assembly, i.e., conference facilities, domestic transportation, etc. The primary expenses shall not include, inter alia, international transportation to and from the location of the General Assembly.

3. For the purposes of holding the General Assembly, the political party, or parties, hosting the General Assembly may seek voluntary contributions from members of the ICAPP and other organizations.

CHAPTER IV. STANDING COMMITTEE

Article 9

1. A Standing Committee, composed of the representatives of political parties of not exceeding twenty-three (23) countries in the region, shall be established.

2. The Members of the Standing Committee, who will serve for two years from the end of a General Assembly until the end of the following General Assembly, shall be nominated at the Standing Committee held on the margins of the General Assembly and approved by the General Assembly.

3. Members of the Standing Committee shall actively participate in all ICAPP activities and programs. If a member, or his or her designated representative from the same political party, fails to attend the Standing Committee meetings for more than two (2) consecutive times, without providing reasonable cause of absence, the membership of the party in the Standing Committee may be revoked by the decision of the Standing Committee.

4. The membership in the Standing Committee may be shared by up to two (2) principal political parties from each country, which is invited to the Standing Committee, with equal status and responsibility.

Article 10

1. The Standing Committee will make decisions on the venue, main theme, and sub themes of the General Assembly as provided in Article 6. Additionally, it shall lay out the procedures of the Plenary Session and Thematic Committee meetings and any other matters as outlined in this Charter.

2. For the purposes of performing its duties, as prescribed in the foregoing, the Standing Committee meeting shall be held at least once a year, including its meetings during the General Assembly.

Article 11

1. One (1) Chairperson and one (1) Vice Chairperson of the Standing Committee shall be elected by consensus of the members of the Standing Committee during the General Assembly. The Chairperson shall serve for two (2) years or until the next General Assembly is held.

2. The Chairperson shall preside over the Standing Committee meetings, held pursuant to Article 10 of this Charter, and represent the ICAPP during the period between the General Assemblies.

3. In the event that the Chairperson is no longer able to serve his or her term before its completion, the Vice Chairperson will assume the position until the following Standing Committee meeting is held.

CHAPTER V. SECRETARIAT

Article 12

The Secretariat of the ICAPP shall be established to execute the following functions, among others:

1. to maintain and update the list of the political parties in the region, a database for the ICAPP activities and the official website(www.theicapp.org);

2. to provide necessary information and assistance to the members of the ICAPP, in particular the members of the Standing Committee and the host of the General Assembly in assuming their roles in the ICAPP activities; and

3. to establish contacts and promote cooperation with other international or regional organizations of political parties, and other international or regional parliamentary organizations.

Article 13

1. The Secretariat shall comprise a Secretary General and such staff as the ICAPP activities may require. The Secretary General shall be appointed by the Standing Committee. The appointment shall be subject to confirmation at the General Assembly.

2. The Secretary General shall act in that capacity in all ICAPP meetings and perform such other functions as are entrusted by the General Assembly and/or the Standing Committee.

CHAPTER VI: AMENDMENTS

Article 14

1. Proposals to amend this Charter shall be made in writing and submitted to the Chairperson of the Standing Committee at least three (3) months in advance prior to the commencement of the General Assembly.

2. The Chairperson of the Standing Committee shall, without delay, communicate such proposal(s) to the members of the Standing Committee who shall then review the proposals and present a joint report with recommendation(s) to the following General Assembly.

3. The proposal(s) shall be reviewed and adopted as amendment(s) to the Charter by the consensus of the General Assembly.

CHAPTER VII: WORKING LANGUAGE

Article 15

1. The working language of the ICAPP shall be English.

2. During the General Assembly, however, if any member provides his or her own simultaneous interpreter(s) from his or her native language to English, the host(s) of the meeting will provide facilities for simultaneous interpretation.

Major Understandings and Decisions reached at the ICAPP Standing Committee Meetings

As of 22 October2020

1. 5th SC Meeting in Seoul during June 1-3, 2006

- The Members agreed to extend invitations to political parties in the Palestinian National Authority in an effort to render the ICAPP activities more inclusive and representative of the diversities existing in the region.

2. 7th SC Meeting in Seoul during February 23-24, 2007

- Hon. Chung Eui-yong, Chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee of the Uri Party of the Republic of Korea, was elected Co-Chairman of the Standing Committee.

- The Members agreed to invite the Liberal Party of Australia, the Justice and Development Party (AK Parti) of Turkey and the United Russian Party of the Russian Federation as new members of the SC.

3. 8th SC Meeting in Tehran during November 22-23, 2007

- The Members agreed that the following two criteria would be applied to the political parties in Asia to be eligible for invitation to the future ICAPP activities, including the General Assemblies; (1) Political parties which have more than one percent of elected seats in their national parliaments; or (2) Political parties which have won more than one percent of popular votes in their latest national parliamentary elections, as certified and recognized by their national election commissions.

4. 10th SC Meeting in Astana during March 27-28, 2009

- The budget and personnel to implement the functions of the ICAPP Secretariat shall be initially provided by the host country. Issues relating to the further budget and personnel of the Secretariat will continue to be discussed in the Standing Committee.

- The Members agreed to establish the ICAPP Secretariat in Seoul, Republic of Korea. And Co-Chairman Chung Eui-yong formally accepted the nomination made at the 9th SC Meeting to assume the position of Secretary General of the ICAPP as of January 1, 2009.

5. 11th SC Meeting in Astana during September 24-28, 2009

- The Members agreed that the decision not to invite certain eligible political parties to the ICAPP General Assembly can be made only by the consensus of the Standing Committee.

6. 13th SC Meeting in Kunming on July 16, 2010

- The Members agreed that all representatives of the political parties at ICAPP Meetings should refrain from raising any issues directly related to bilateral conflicts or disputes among the countries in the region. It was highly recommended, however, to seek direct dialogue among political parties in the concerned countries to promote understanding and prevent such conflicts or disputes from getting further aggravated.

- The Members agreed to recommend to all members of the Standing committee to adopt the similar arrangement reached between the two main political parties in Japan and Korea that as long as they retain membership in the ICAPP SC, the representative of the political party with the largest number of seats in their respective Parliament at the time would represent Japan or Korea 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 observers. They agreed that such formula in the SC membership will make the ICAPP activities more inclusive and credible.

- The Members endorsed the establishment of the ICAPP Medical Emergency Forum (IMEF), as proposed by the UMNO at the 12th SC Meeting.

7. 14th SC Meeting in Phnom Penh during December 1-3, 2010

- The Members elected Hon. Mushahid Hussain Sayed, Secretary General of the Pakistan Muslim League-Q, as Special Rapporteur of the Standing Committee.

- The Members agreed to the new list of the eighteen political parties from eighteen countries whose representatives would compose the new Standing Committee; i.e. Australia, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Cambodia, China, India, Indonesia, Iran, Japan, Kazakhstan, Republic of Korea, Malaysia, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Russian Federation, Turkey and Vietnam.

- The Members endorsed the Secretariat's proposal to seek observer status in the U.N. General Assembly (UNGA) and agreed to request their respective governments to co-sponsor the draft resolution in the UNGA.

8. 16th SC Meeting in Seoul during October 27-30, 2011

- The Members agreed to establish the ICAPP Youth Wing to help young politicians explore and strengthen their capabilities as political leaders. They also welcomed the proposal to establish the ICAPP Media Forum and agreed to form a working group to discuss how to set up the media forum.

- The Members also agreed to establish the ICAPP Women's Wing to further strengthen the role of women in politics in the region.

9. 17th SC Meeting in Baku during June 21-23, 2012

- The Members agreed to establish the ICAPP-COPPPAL Economic Council[1] and the ICAPP Committee on Climate Change.

[1] *ICAPP-COPPPAL Economic Council was later renamed to ICAPP-COPPPAL Business Council (ICBC) prior to its 1st Meeting, which took place on 28-29 November 2014 in Mexico City, Mexico*

- In this regard, the Members agreed that the ICAPP-affiliated groups, including the ICAPP Youth Wing, ICAPP Women's Wing and the IMEF, should remain under the umbrella of the ICAPP Standing Committee and their activities should be fully consistent with the objectives and principles of the ICAPP.

10. 18th SC Meeting in Baku on November 21, 2012

- The Members agreed to increase the number of SC Members from eighteen to twenty-two and to invite political parties from Bangladesh, Lebanon, Mongolia, Myanmar and Thailand as new SC members. They agreed to revoke the membership of Bahrain in accordance with the ICAPP Charter.

11. 19th SC Meeting in Hanoi during April 22-24, 2013

- The Members endorsed the Secretariat's proposal to conclude an inter-governmental Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to provide support for the ICAPP activities and agreed to recommend their respective governments to sign the MOU.

12. 23rd SC Meeting in Colombo on September 18, 2014

- The Members agreed to increase the number of SC members to twenty-three and to invite Sri Lanka as new a member. They also agreed to amend the ICAPP Charter to allow up to two principal political parties in the member countries to be represented in the Standing Committee.

- The Members elected Hon. Sok An, Deputy Prime Minister, Minister in charge of the Office of the Council of Ministers, and Representative of the Cambodian People's Party as Vice Chairman of the Standing Committee.

- The Members reconfirmed that consensus-building, or unanimous decision-making, is one of the main pillars of the ICAPP and the ICAPP should continue to abide by this principle in its future activities.

13. 24th SC Meeting in Kuala Lumpur on February 28 – March 3, 2015

- The Members agreed to change the name of the group from the IMEF to the ICAPP Program for Disasters Assistance (IPDA) to correctly represent the intended direction and scope of the group's activities.

14. 25th SC Meeting in Beijing, China on October 15, 2015

- The Members agreed to establish an ICAPP-EU Political Forum (IEPF)[2] to promote closer cooperation between the ICAPP and political parties in the European Parliament.

15. 28th SC Meeting in Seoul on July 7, 2017

- The Members agreed to establish the ICAPP Cultural Council, which was first proposed at the ICAPP Special Conference on Regional Economic Cooperation in Vladivostok

[2] *IEPF was renamed to Asia-Europe Political Forum (AEPF) prior to its 1st Meeting, which took place on 7-10 July 2017 in Seoul, Republic of Korea*

in May 2015. The Members also decided to rename the ICAPP Cultural Council to "Asian Cultural Council" (ACC).

- The Members agreed to increase the number of Bureau Members of the SC to five and elected Hon. Hor Namhong, Deputy Prime Minister and Former Foreign Minister of Cambodia, Hon. Zheng Xiaosong, Vice Minister of the International Department of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China, and Hon. Mushahid Hussain Sayed, Secretary General of the Pakistan Muslim League-Q of Pakistan, respectively, as Vice Chairman of the Standing Committee.

16. 31st SC Meeting in Moscow on October 24, 2018

- It was agreed to establish Coordinate Secretariat among the ICAPP-COPPPAL-CAPP to be assumed by the ICAPP Secretariat and its Secretary General during the 3rd Trilateral Meeting among the ICAPP-COPPPAL-CAPP on 26th of October.

17. 32nd SC Meeting in Colombo on April 6, 2019

- The Members agreed to elect the member as a Bureau of the ICAPP Standing Committee for one term (2 years) who has hosted the General Assembly of the ICAPP. In this regard, Hon. Andrey Klimov, Deputy Secretary General of the United Russia Party on International Relations, who hosted the 10th Meeting of the ICAPP General Assembly in Moscow in 2018, was appointed as Vice Chairperson of the ICAPP Standing Committee for two years.

- The Members expressed great interest in the proposal of Hon. Shahidan Bin Kassim, Member of Parliament, United Malays National Organization (UMNO) and Former Minister in the Office of the Prime Minister of Malaysia, to establish a "Tourism Promotion Council"[3] as an ICAPP Affiliated Body.

[3] *Upon further consultations with the Members after the 32nd SC Meeting, it was agreed to establish the Tourism Promotion and Inter-City Cooperation (TOPIC) Council. The 1st Meeting of the TOPIC Council took place on 13-16 December 2019 in Terengganu, Malaysia*

Brief Introduction of the ICAPP

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As of 12 May 2021

The International Conference of Asian Political Parties (ICAPP) was launched in Manila, Philippines in September 2000 to promote exchanges and cooperation among political parties with various ideologies in Asia and Oceania.

The ICAPP seeks to enhance mutual understanding and deepen trust in the region and in doing so, promote peace and prosperity through the unique role and channel of political parties.

At first, few people thought it would be possible to bring together competing governing, opposition and independent political parties of Northeast Asia, Southeast Asia, Central Asia, West Asia, the Middle East, and Oceania. However, since its inception, the ICAPP has grown steadily in both membership and influence.

Now more than 300 political parties in the region with diverse political and ideological backgrounds are eligible to participate in the ICAPP activities. By bringing together leaders of political parties in Asia at regular assemblies, the ICAPP has become a positive force for mutual understanding among Asian countries and peoples. The ICAPP meetings have been visionary, cordial, constructive and successful.

The ICAPP has also become institutionalized through wide-ranging programs and a sophisticated structure. The General Assembly, which welcomes all eligible political parties across Asia and Oceania, is held biannually. The Standing Committee, which is composed of political party representatives from 23 countries, meets semi-annually to address general matters of the ICAPP. Special Conferences are held on timely topics upon recommendations from the Standing Committee, and small-scale workshops are also held targeting specific audiences and topics. Themes of previous Special Conferences and workshops include, among others, prevention of political corruption, green development, migration and refugees and promotion of business opportunities. The ICAPP Youth Wing and Women's Wing have also been established and their annual meetings focus on issues related to education, employment, human rights, and equal opportunities.

The ICAPP has also established channels of dialogue with political parties in Africa, Europe, and the Americas. This is manifested through the partnership among the ICAPP, the Permanent Conference of Political Parties in Latin America and the Caribbean (*COPPPAL*), and the Council of African Political Parties (CAPP). The CAPP is the product of coordinated efforts by the ICAPP and *COPPPAL* to help political parties in Africa establish a forum. The ICAPP and *COPPPAL* have been holding joint sessions annually since 2009 and the trilateral meetings among the ICAPP, *COPPPAL* and CAPP have been held since 2016. At the 3rd Trilateral Meeting among the ICAPP-*COPPPAL*-CAPP, which was held in Moscow, Russia in 2018, the three organizations agreed to designate the ICAPP Secretariat as the Common Secretariat to further joint cooperation in the future.

The Asia Europe Political Forum (AEPF), which is regularly co-organized by the ICAPP and European Conservatives and Reformists Group (ECR), is also a product of such intercontinental cooperation. The 1st meeting of the AEPF was held in Seoul, Korea in 2017

after discussions between the ICAPP and political groups of the European Parliament to enhance mutual understanding and cooperation between Asia and Europe. The 2nd AEPF meeting was held in London, United Kingdom in 2018 and the 3rd AEPF meeting was held in Colombo, Sri Lanka in 2019.

In recognition of the ICAPP's role in bringing together various political parties to promote understanding and friendship among countries not only in Asia, but also in Africa, Europe and Latin America, a number of governments in the region, including those of Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Cambodia, China, Iran, Kazakhstan, the Republic of Korea, Mongolia, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Vietnam, have signed the inter-governmental "MOU on Cooperation to Support the Activities of the ICAPP" since 2013. More governments are expected to join in signing the MOU.

The ICAPP strives to achieve the UN Sustainable Development Goals by raising awareness on key issues and fostering dialogue on the design and implementation of policies that can bring positive change. In 2018, the UNESCO acknowledged the ICAPP as an international organization of political parties of independent states and signed the "Cooperation Agreement between the UNESCO and the ICAPP." The ICAPP will continue to play its role not only in building a cohesive community in Asia, but also in contributing to the global quest for peace and prosperity.

The 5th General Assembly held in 2009 decided to establish the ICAPP Secretariat in Seoul, Republic of Korea. Thanks to the support of many governments in the region, the Secretariat has been able to develop and expand the scope of the ICAPP activities.

The ICAPP Secretariat can be reached by email at secretariat@theicapp.org. More detailed information on the ICAPP and its activities can be found on its website at www.theicapp.org.