Conclusions
of the 29th Meeting of the ICAPP Standing Committee
(Tehran, Iran, February 2, 2018)

The 29th Meeting (hereinafter referred to as "the Meeting") of the Standing Committee (hereinafter referred to as "the SC") of the International Conference of Asian Political Parties (hereinafter referred to as "the ICAPP") was held at *Zomorrod* Hall of Hotel *Homa* in Tehran, Iran. The Meeting was held between the sessions of the ICAPP Special Conference on the Silk Road, which was hosted by the Islamic *Motalefeh* Party and co-hosted by the Foundation for Islamic Development from February 1-4, 2018, from 20:00 to 22:00 on February 2, 2018.

The list of participants and annotated agenda of the Meeting are attached as ***Appendixes I-1 and I-2.***

The Meeting was chaired by Hon. Jose de Venecia, Jr., Founding Chairman of the SC and Hon. Park Ro-byug, Secretary General of the ICAPP. The Updated List of SC Members is attached as ***Appendix II.***

Preparations for 10th General Assembly of the ICAPP

The SC Members reached the following common understanding about the hosting of the 10th ICAPP General Assembly (hereinafter referred to as "GA").

- It is desirable and efficient to hold the GA together with meetings of the ICAPP Affiliated Groups, such as the Women's Wing or the Youth Wing.
- If and when Russia (United Russia Party) decides to host the 10th GA, it would be preferable to take place either in Moscow or other cities except for Vladivostok, because the SC and a Special Conference were already held in Vladivostok.

The SC Members expressed their support and mandate to the Secretariat's pro-active step in order to decide on which member of the ICAPP would host the 10th GA within about a month, preferably until March 2018.

In the meantime, the Justice and Development Party (*AK Parti*) from Turkey expressed their interest in hosting the 10th GA along with other ICAPP affiliated Groups. In this regard, the further progress of the 10th GA would be notified to the ICAPP SC Members after the follow-up consultation with the United Russia Party.

Preparations for the ICAPP Special Conference on the Silk Road

Hon. Jose de Venecia, Founding Chairman of the ICAPP and Secretary General Park appreciated Hon. Prof. Hassan Ghafoori Fard, SC Member of the ICAPP and Islamic *Motalefeh* Party for preparation of the ICAPP Special Conference on the Silk Road as a host of the Conference. The Program, List of Participants, List of Speakers, and Concept Paper of the Conference are attached as ***Appendix III-1, III-2, III-3, and III-4.***

The SC Members reviewed the Tehran Statement on the Silk Road, which has been prepared by the host of the Special Conference and circulated among SC Members in advance. The Statement was adopted and announced at the closing session of the Special Conference on February 3, and is attached as ***Appendix III-5.***

Report on the ICAPP Activities in 2017

The SC Members reviewed the reports on the ICAPP activities conducted in 2017, which were prepared and circulated by the Secretariat. They agreed to submit to the next GA to share the content of the reports with other members.

The reports were prepared and circulated by the Secretariat as separate publications as Document No. ICAPP-2017 July (1) and ICAPP-2017 July (2). They included comprehensive achievements of the following ICAPP activities.

- Report on the result of the 28th Meeting of the ICAPP Standing Committee (Seoul, Korea July 7, 2017)
- Report on the result of the 3rd Meeting of the ICAPP Media Forum (Seoul, Korea July 7, 2017)
- Report on the Results on the 1st Meeting of the Asia-Europe Political Forum (AEPF) (Seoul, Korea July 9, 2017)

Attached are the Program of and List of Participants in the forum. Also attached are the List of Bureau Members of the Media Forum and the Seoul Statement on the Role of Media in Political Democratization and Building an Asian Community which was adopted at the forum. (See ***Appendixes IV-1, IV-2, IV-3, and IV-4***)

Also attached are the Program, List of Participants, List of Bureau Members, and the Seoul Statement on Launching the Asia-Europe Political Forum. (See ***Appendixes V-1, V-2, V-3, and V-4***)

Issues relating to the ICAPP Standing Committee (SC)

Future Meetings of the SC

- Secretary General Park explained that since the 29th Meeting of the Standing Committee, which was originally scheduled in autumn of 2017, is taking place in February 2018, there is a need to discuss when and where we will have the 30th and 31st SC Meetings.
- He also mentioned that it would be valuable if the 31st and/or 32nd SC Meeting could be held back-to-back with either the GA or other meetings.
- The representative of the Turkey expressed its willingness to host the 10th GA and preferably the next SC in connection with holding its Asian Parliamentary Assembly to be held in October, as is above-stated. In this regard, the Secretariat was requested to take into account the Turkish offer, after receiving Russia's position as soon as possible.

- Membership of the Japanese political party (Party of Hope) at the SC:

  The Secretariat has received a request from the Party of the Hope of Japan which asked the ICAPP Secretariat whether one of its Party member could attend the SC (in addition to the Special Conference) instead of a representative of the Democratic Party (DP), considering the results of the lower house elections last October. It was reported that during the preparation period of the lower house elections last year, a representative of the DP has been separated into the Party of Hope (PH), the Constitutional Democratic Party (CDP) and the DP. And then the rankings of the opposition parties changed with 54 seats for the CDP, 51 seats for the PH and 12 seats for the DP, following the lower house elections. At present, Hon. Hiroe Makiyama, Director General of the DP is attending as a representative of Japanese SC members to the Standing Committee.

  Moreover, the International Bureau of the Liberal Democratic Party reaffirmed its position that it would not attend regular meetings of the ICAPP including the SC due to the difficult domestic political situation, as delivered by the LDP and already communicated at the 22nd Meeting of the SC in Vladivostok in 2014.

  Some members agreed with the Secretariat to defer a review on which representatives of the Japanese political Parties may be invited to the SC until the positions of the relevant political Parties of Japan are clearly delivered to the Secretariat.

Preparations for five ICAPP Work Programs for 2018

2nd Meeting of the Asia-Europe Political Forum (AEPF) (London, May 17-20, 2018)

Secretary General Park and the Cambodian representative reported preparation for the 2nd Asia-Europe Political Forum to be hosted by the European Conservatives and Reformists (ECR) Group in London, the United Kingdom.

Through the consultation at the ICAPP SC on four topics offered by the ECR Group, the Members of the SC agreed to offer two topics to the ECR Group. The Secretary General expressed its readiness to receive a comment from Hon. Hor Namhong, Co-Chairman of the AEPF and then send the ICAPP's final view to the ECR Group. The Secretary General explained to the SC Members that further information on the AEPF will be provided as soon as the ECR Group notifies.

Time and Venue for the meetings of the Affiliated Groups

The SC Members supported the efforts of the Secretariat to decide on where to hold the meetings of the ICAPP affiliated Groups. Secretary General Park Ro-byug proposed to ask the members that expressed the holding of the Meetings to give them one-month period for their final consideration (approximately until 15 March).

The SC Members agreed that confirmation are not expressed within the pre-informed period, the Secretariat may be able to sound out other candidate countries to hold the meetings.

In this regard, the representative of Nepal mentioned the tentative willingness to hold the Youth Wing Meeting probably in July, when the election finishes in April/May.

1st Meeting of the Asian Cultural Council (ACC)

The Members of the SC took note of achievement made by the Cambodian People's Party, particularly the initiative of Hon. Hor Namhong, Vice Chairman of the ICAPP Standing Committee and Deputy Prime Minister of Cambodia, to have established the full partnership between the ICAPP ACC and the UNESCO.

The Cambodian representative reported to the SC that the exact date of the 1st Meeting of the ACC in 2018 would be made known as soon as possible.

The Work Programs of the ICAPP for 2018 is attached as ***Appendix VI***.

Cooperation with the COPPPAL and CAPP

Attending the Inaugural Session of the 3rd General Assembly of the CAPP (Council of African Political Parties) in Khartoum, Sudan, on August 19, 2017

The Acting Secretary General of the ICAPP attended the Inaugural Session of the 3rd General Assembly of the CAPP (Council of African Political Parties) in Khartoum, Sudan, on August 19, 2017.

Attending the Trilateral Meeting at the 35th Ordinary Plenary Meeting of the COPPPAL (Tegucigalpa, Honduras, November 22-23, 2017)

At the invitation of Hon. Manolo Pichardo, President of the Permanent Conference of Political Parties of Latin America and the Caribbean (COPPPAL), Hon. Jeon Jae-man, Acting Secretary General participated in the trilateral Meeting with ICAPP-COPPPAL-CAPP in Tegucigalpa, Honduras on 22nd November 2017 and attended the opening session of the 35th Ordinary Plenary Meeting of the COPPPAL the next day.

In the Tegucigalpa Declaration adopted at the Trilateral Meeting on November 23, 2017, as well as the Jakarta Declaration adopted in April 23, 2016, it was agreed on several topics of common interest such as cooperation to free from poverty and environmental degradation, promotion of harmony and unity in diversity and plurality against globalization, establishing of a fair international order, resolving of refugees, development of investments for social responsibility and economic cooperation. (See the ***Appendix VII-1***). The report is attached herewith. (See the ***Appendix VII-2***)

Review on the holding of the 1st Meeting of the Coordination Committee and Trilateral Meeting among ICAPP, CAPP, and COPPPAL

As was reported in the 26th Meeting of the Standing Committee, which was held in Jakarta, Indonesia in April 2016, the view was expressed by the SC Members of the ICAPP that it is important to hold the Trilateral Cooperation Meeting. In order to maximize upon what we have gained at the first Trilateral Meeting in Jakarta in April 2016, it was agreed to have regular meetings among representatives of the ICAPP Standing Committee, the COPPPAL Coordinating Body and the CAPP Executive Committee. Moreover, Hon. Dr. Nafie Ali Nafie made a proposal in late December of 2017, to host the 1st Meeting of the Coordination Committee to be attended by the ICAPP, CAPP, and COPPPAL during the second half of February 2018.

In this regard, the SC Members will continue to review and discuss common interests in and ways on organizing of a Coordination Committee for Trilateral Cooperation, as well as the mutually beneficial theme, the date, and venue for the next Trilateral Meeting.

ICAPP's Bid for Observer Status in the U.N. General Assembly

Hon. Jose de Venecia welcomed the ACC's partnership with the UNESCO and stressed the need to make a new approach to the ICAPP's bid for Observer Status. Secretary General reminded the decision at the 28th Meeting of the ICAPP Standing Committee on July 7, 2017, in Seoul, that while not giving up the observer status in the UN General Assembly, the SC would conduct strategic review of the approaches that the ICAPP can take and requested SC Members to provide input for their assessment of the situation and new recommendations on the new approach.

In this connection, the Secretariat, in close consultations with the SC Members, is going to prepare a review paper on the ICAPP's approach to the observer status until May 17, 2018, in order to facilitate discussions on practical and coordinated steps to realize the observer status in the UN General Assembly as soon as possible.

Signing of the Inter-governmental MOU to Support ICAPP Activities

The inter-governmental MOU to provide support for the activities of the ICAPP, which was first signed on July 26, 2013, has so far been signed by the governments of 11 countries in the region, i.e. Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Cambodia, China, Iran, Kazakhstan, Mongolia, Nepal, the Republic of Korea, Sri Lanka and Vietnam.

In this regard, SC Members were kindly requested to persuade their respective governments to join the signing of the MOU in the near future.

Recommendations to amend the Article 2 and Article 11 of the Charter of the ICAPP

Due to the limited time for consideration and a need to accommodate some Members' views, the Secretariat was requested to defer the decision on the amendment of the Charter to the next Meeting of the SC.

Appointment of new Secretary General of the ICAPP Secretariat

Referring to the letter sent by Hon. Chung Eui-yong, Co-Chairman of the ICAPP SC, Hon. Jose de Venecia gave warm support and full credence to appoint to Hon. Park Ro-byug, Former Ambassador of the ROK to Russia, as Secretary General of the ICAPP (See ***Appendix VIII***). The SC Members and participants agreed on the appointment of Ambassador Park as new Secretary General of the ICAPP Secretariat.

Appendixes:

- ***I. The 29th Meeting of the ICAPP Standing Committee***
  1. ***List of Participants***
  2. ***Annotated Agenda***
- ***II. Updated List of SC Members***
- ***III. ICAPP Special Conference on the Silk Road***
  1. ***Program***
  2. ***List of Participants***
  3. ***List of Speakers***
  4. ***Concept Paper***
  5. ***Tehran Statement***
- ***IV. The 3rd Meeting of the ICAPP Media Forum***
  1. ***Program***
  2. ***List of Participants***
  3. ***List of Bureau Members***
  4. ***Seoul Statement***
- ***V. The 1st Meeting of the Asia-Europe Political Forum***
  1. ***Program***
  2. ***List of Participants***
  3. ***List of Bureau Members***
  4. ***Seoul Statement***
- ***VI. Work Programs of the ICAPP for 2018***
- ***VII. Trilateral Meeting at the 35th Ordinary Plenary Meeting of the COPPPAL***
  1. ***Declaration***
  2. ***Attendance at the Trilateral Meeting at the 35th Ordinary Plenary Meeting of the COPPPAL***
- ***VIII. Letter of Nomination by Co-Chairman Chung Eui-yong***