Conclusions
of the 30th Meeting of the ICAPP Standing Committee
(London, United Kingdom, May 17, 2018)

The 30th 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 *White Suite* Hall of the Royal Horseguards Hotel in London, United Kingdom. The Meeting was held prior to the 2nd Meeting of the Asia-Europe Political Forum (AEPF), which was hosted by the European Conservatives and Reformists (ECR) Group from May 17-20, 2018, from 22:30 to 23:30 on May 17, 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 and Chairman of the ICAPP SC and Hon. Park Ro-byug, Secretary General of the ICAPP.

Preparations for the 2nd Meeting of the Asia-Europe Political Forum (AEPF)

As a follow-up of a proposal by Hon. Geoffrey Van Orden, Co-Chairperson of the AEPF, Vice-Chairman of the European Conservatives and Reformists (ECR) Group and Member of the European Parliament (MEP), Secretary General Park Ro-byug visited London on 27 April to finalize important issues of preparation with Hon. Geoffrey Van Orden to host the 2nd Meeting of the AEPF in London in May 2018. The 2nd Meeting of the AEPF was participated by Standing Committee Members and representatives of the two principle groups of political parties in the European Parliament, i.e. European Conservatives and Reformists Group (ECR) and Alliance of Conservatives and Reformists in Europe (ACRE) according to the Terms of Reference of the AEPF.

Three issues were selected for inclusion on the agenda:

1. Asia-Europe partnership and the role of political parties in regional co-operation and connectivity;
2. Co-operation in promoting affordable and clean energy, mitigating climate change, and preventing environmental degradation; and
3. Disaster relief, combating major diseases-the humanitarian response.

Members of the ICAPP SC, including Hon. Jose de Venecia, Founding Chairman of the ICAPP, and Hon. Park Ro-byug, Secretary General of the ICAPP appreciated and pay tribute for its excellent preparation and arrangements of the 2nd Meeting of the AEPF to the host, the ECR Group.

In order to organize successful Meeting of the AEPF, Secretary General Park emphasized the rules of procedures, in terms of format of discussions and limitation of time in speeches. Members of the SC agreed and expressed their willingness to follow the new

rule of procedure in order to achieve more interactive discussions with the European delegates at the Meeting.

The SC Members reviewed the draft London Communique, of which Hon. Geoffrey Van Orden and Hon. Park Ro-byug have led the process of finalizing the draft Communique, reflecting the participants' view. The London Communique was adopted at the Closing Session of the 2nd AEPF, and is attached as ***Appendix II-1.***

It was announced that the candidates' members of the ICAPP who would like to host the next third Meeting of the AEPF are requested to make their bid proposals to the ICAPP Secretariat by 30 May, while Hon. Daya Gamage, Vice-Chairperson of the AEPF, Minister of Primary Industries and Senior Deputy Chairman of the United National Party, has explicitly expressed his intention to host the third Meeting in Colombo, Sri Lanka.

On 17 May, Secretary General Park Ro-byug met with Hon. Jan Zahradil, President of the Alliance of Conservatives and Reformists in Europe (ACRE) and Member of European Parliament. During the discussion, the he explained that election of the European Parliament will be held in May of 2019, and the mandate of the newly elected Parliament is expected to be decided by July.

Accordingly, it was recommended by the European side that the next Meeting of the AEPF be convened in October, in order to encourage members of the European principal political parties to participate in the Meeting.

The Program, List of Participants, Conference Procedures and Concept Paper are attached as ***Appendix II-2, II-3, II-4, and II-5.***

Preparations for 10th General Assembly of the ICAPP

On March 23, 2018, the Secretariat received a letter of confirmation from Hon. Sergey Zheleznyak, Deputy Secretary General of the United Russia Party on International Affairs that Russia is going to hold the 10th General Assembly in Moscow, Russia during October 24-27, 2018.

Hon. Park Ro-byug, Secretary General of the ICAPP, met Hon. Sergey Zheleznyak on 26 April in Moscow and on 7 June in Seoul. Both sides reconfirmed Russia's hosting of the 10th General Assembly in Moscow, Russia on October 24-27, 2018.

Following the close consultation between the Secretariat and the United Russia Party, both sides have reached common understandings as below:

1. Topics of the 10th GA:
   1) The role of political parties in reducing international tensions and combating extremism; and
   2) Importance of international inter-party cooperation in the formation and development of political, economic, social ties between states.

2. Hon. Dmitry Medvedev, Chairman of the Party, Prime Minister of the Russian Federation is expected to be nominated and elected as Chairman of the GA and preside over the Opening Session;

3. Hon. Sergey Zheleznyak, Deputy Secretary General of the United Russia Party, will be nominated and elected as Chairman of the Organizing Committee of the GA, and will oversee the overall preparations and operation of the GA in cooperation with the ICAPP Secretariat;

4. The Chairman of the Organizing Committee of the GA will be nominated and elected as First Deputy Chairman of the GA. Heads of Delegations from participating countries in the GA will also be nominated and elected as Deputy Chairmen of the GA, and will preside over the plenary sessions of the GA;

5. The 31st Meeting of the ICAPP Standing Committee, the 4th Meeting of the ICAPP Media Forum, the 5th Meeting of the ICAPP Women's Wing, the 1st Meeting of the Coordination Committee among the ICAPP-COPPPAL-CAPP, and the Meeting of the ICAPP Youth Wing will also be held in Moscow on the sidelines of the GA;

6. The program and conference procedures of the GA will be prepared following the traditions of the previous GAs. The tentative program and draft conference procedures are attached as ***Appendixes III-1*** and ***III-2***, and will be finalized by the United Russia Party in consultation with the ICAPP Secretariat;

7. Official invitation letters to participants in the GA will be co-signed by the Founding Chairman and Chairman of the ICAPP Standing Committee (Hon. Jose de Venecia), representative of the United Russia Party, and the Secretary General of the ICAPP, and will be sent in due course to all political parties in Asia which are eligible to participate in ICAPP activities in accordance with the ICAPP Charter;

8. The list of observers to be invited to the GA will be prepared by the ICAPP Secretariat and will be submitted to the United Russia Party for their consent before official invitations are sent; and

9. The following are key elements in the future schedule:

    1) Official letters of invitation will be sent preferably, early July, 2018.
    2) The closing date for the registration by Members wishing to attend the 10th GA is 15th September (Friday), 2018.

Issues relating to the ICAPP Standing Committee (SC)

New Members of the SC

The Secretariat received a letter from Hon. Tran Doc Loi, SC Member of the ICAPP and Vice Chairman of the Commission for External Relations of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Vietnam, that Hon. Nguyen Manh Cuong, Vice Chairman of the Central Commission for External Relations, the Communist Party of Vietnam (CPV), will represent the Communist Party of Vietnam to the Standing Committee of the ICAPP as from 4th of May 2018, replacing Hon. Tran Doc Loi.

The President of the Cambodian People's Party (CPP), H.E. Hun Sen sent a to the Founding Chairman of the ICAPP and the ICAPP Secretariat, informing them that, due to the health reasons, he called off the positions of Hon. Hor Namhong and that he was to be replaced by Hon. Ms. Khuon Sudary, a member of the CPP Standing Committee, Chair of Cambodia Women Parliamentarians' Caucus Group and the Former Deputy Speaker. The ICAPP members and the Secretariat pay tribute to Hon. Hor Namhong for his contribution to valuable steps forward in pursuit of the goal of promoting peace and progress in the Asian region.

Hon. Hor Namhong had served since July 7, 2017 as

1) Vice-Chairman of the ICAPP Standing Committee
2) Co-Chairperson of the AEPF
3) Chairperson of the Asian Cultural Council (ACC)

In this regard, Paragraph 1 of Article 11 of the ICAPP Charter stipulates that the Vice Chairperson of the Standing Committee shall be elected by consensus among the members of the SC during the General Assembly to serve for two years until the following General Assembly is held. According to the Terms of Reference of the Asia-Europe Political Forum (AEPF) and the Asian Cultural Council (ACC), the terms of the office of the bureau are two years.

Accordingly, the successor was appointed by its political party may take over the predecessor's seats for the remaining period in the two years term that is to say, until July 2019, unless otherwise decided on.

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

Future Meetings of the SC

- As was explained at the 29th SC Meeting and ICAPP Update 18-09, dated April 3, it is agreed to hold the 31st SC Meeting on October 2018 in Moscow, Russia, on the sidelines of the 10th General Assembly. The 31st SC Meeting will be hosted by the United Russia Party.

- The Justice and Development Party (*AK Parti*) of Turkey offered to host the Meetings of the ICAPP affiliated bodies, such as Women's Wing. In this regard, it would be valuable if 32nd SC Meeting to be held back-to-back with other meetings of the ICAPP in Turkey, during the first half of 2019.

Membership of a seat for Japanese opposition political parties at the SC

While preparing for the 29th SC Meeting, which was held in Tehran, Iran, on February 2, 2018, the Secretariat has received a request from the Party of the Hope of Japan, concerning whether one of its Party members could attend the SC, when a representative of the Democratic Party (DP) does not attend the meeting. At present, Ms. Hiroe Makiyama, Director General of the DP has taken seat as a representative of the Japanese SC members to the Standing Committee.

During the preparations for the lower house elections last year, representatives of the DP have been separated into the Party of Hope (PH), the Constitutional Democratic Party (CDP) and the DP. And there was a shift in the balance between the opposition parties with 54 seats for the CDP, 51 seats for the PH and 12 seats for the DP, following the lower house elections. It was reported that the Party of Hope and the Democratic Party have merged in May this year.

Against this backdrop, it was decided that who may be invited to the SC would be reviewed after a definite decision on the merging of political parties is announced.

Preparations for ICAPP Work Programs for 2018 and 2019

Workshop on Green Cities

The ROK Parliamentary Union of the ICAPP, under the support of the Secretariat, has announced its plan to host a Special Workshop on Green Cities in Korea, at the GGGI Conference Hall tentatively on October 30 to November 2, 2018. The Secretariat has arranged co-hosing of the Special Workshop with the Global Green Growth Institute (GGGI), the international organization which works with in-country governments across Ministries and Departments as a neutral advisor to explore green growth opportunities.

Following three issues were tentatively selected as agendas for the Workshop:

1. Green Cities;
2. Air Quality; and
3. Water Management and Sanitation.

The workshop is designed to arrange one representative from each of the respective political parties which the SC Members belong to. In this regard, majority of SC Members have responded positively with its intention to designate one of a party member or an expert on the issues of the green economy, so that he or she may participate in the workshop. The tentative program is attached as ***Appendixes V***.

Standing Committee members, who are interested to participate in, or wish to dispatch his or her experts to the Workshop on Green Cities, are cordially requested to register to the Secretariat by 3 September, 2018. The invitation for the Workshop will be distributed to SC members, preferably by mid-July.

1st Meeting of the Asian Cultural Council (ACC)

The decision was taken at the 28th Meeting of the SC in July 2017 to establish the Asian Cultural Council, on the initiative of Cambodia, China, Nepal and Russia. Hon. Hor Namhong, Deputy Prime Minister of Cambodia, then-Vice Chairman of the ICAPP Standing Committee, was elected as Chairman of the ACC.

When Hon. Park Ro-byug, Secretary General of the ICAPP, visited Cambodia on March 28-30, in order to engage in further discussions with regard to the ACC and other ICAPP programs, Hon. Hor Namhong promised to hold the 1st Meeting of the ACC either in February or March of 2019.

In London, the Secretariat and the Cambodian side have discussed the arrangements of the ACC Meeting and documents on the ACC. The Cambodian side accepted the ICAPP Secretariat's modification of the status of H.E. Samdech Techo Hun Sen, President of the Cambodian People's Party (CPP), as "Honorary" Founding Chairman of the ACC. The Cambodian side also suggested a draft Rules and Working Modalities of ACC based on the Terms of Reference. (See ***Appendix VI***). The offer on the location of the ACC affiliated secretariat and draft rules and working modalities need to be reviewed by the Standing Committee members until the end of 2018.

The Cambodian side also distributed a draft agreement with UNESCO for review of the Standing Committee members. Considering the need for review of the Standing Committee Members with the draft agreement and the draft rules and working modalities, Secretary General Park Ro-byug and Cambodian side agreed to collect views of the SC members and discuss more in depth later through mutually comfortable channels and opportunities.

Cooperation with the COPPPAL and CAPP

Trilateral Business Council Meeting

In early March and April, the Secretariat received a letter from Hon. Martin Rodriguez Sanchez, President of the COINE (International Business Council) and President of the COPPPAL Business Council, offering to hold the Trilateral Business Council among the ICAPP-COPPPAL-CAPP in June 2018. However, given that the 2nd Meeting of the Asia-Europe Political Forum is to be held in mid-May, the Secretariat suggested, rather, the holding of the Meeting of the Coordination Committee among the ICAPP-COPPPAL-CAPP in Moscow, first, and then to sounding out the participation of the Asian side of the Business Council.

At the request of Hon. Martin Rodriguez, Hon. Park Ro-byug, Secretary General of the ICAPP, held a video-conference with him on 11th May. Hon. Rodriguez asked the ICAPP to reactivate cooperation on trade and investment through the ICAPP-COPPPAL Business Council, particularly by re-establishing contacts with the ICAPP side of the Business Council and signing a new Term Sheet and Agreements. His request to establish

the Business Council and to recommend Asian business partners were circulated at the Meeting of the ICAPP Standing Committee.

Other Activities of the ICAPP

ICAPP Mission on the Election in Cambodia

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of Cambodia, on behalf of the National Election Committee (NEC) of Cambodia, sent an official invitation to the ICAPP to send a mission to observe the process of the election of the sixth legislature of National Assembly to be held on July 29, 2018. SC Members, who wish to participate in the mission, are requested to confirm their participation through the already informed contact point, as well as the Secretariat, by 20 July, as explained in the ***Appendix VII***.

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

It was agreed, at the 28th Meeting of the ICAPP Standing Committee on July 7, 2017, in Seoul, that while not giving up in the efforts to secure Observer status in the UN General Assembly, a strategic review would be conducted of the approaches the ICAPP could take. SC members were requested to provide input for their assessment of the situation and recommendations on a new approach.

Signing of the Inter-governmental MOU to Support ICAPP Activities

The inter-governmental MOU on providing 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 are kindly requested to persuade their respective governments to join the signing of the MOU in the near future.

Criteria for membership to amend the Article 2 of the Charter of the ICAPP

Before incorporating some elements from the following Understandings and Decisions reached at ICAPP Standing Committee Meetings into the Charter of the ICAPP, some SC Members have raised the problem of criteria (2). Because in their view, political parties that have not won any Parliamentarian Status, but only have more than one percent of popular votes, cannot in practice function in the Parliament and so they are not qualified for the ICAPP membership. In this regard, the members of the Standing Committee agreed that this criteria issue would be reviewed carefully and to be decided at the next SC Meeting, in Moscow.

(Criteria for membership)

- ***Understanding reached at the 8th SC Meeting in Tehran in November 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; and/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."

Appendixes:

- ***I. The 30th Meeting of the ICAPP Standing Committee***
  1. ***List of Participants***
  2. ***Annotated Agenda***
- ***II. The 2nd Meeting of the Asia-Europe Political Forum (AEPF)***
  1. ***London Communique***
  2. ***Program***
  3. ***List of Participants***
  4. ***Conference Procedures***
  5. ***Concept Paper***
- ***III. The 10th General Assembly***
  1. ***Draft Program***
  2. ***Draft Conference Procedures***
- ***IV. Updated List of Standing Committee Members***
- ***V. Tentative Program of the Workshop on Green Cities***
- ***VI. Draft Rules and Working Modalities of the Asian Cultural Council***
- ***VII. ICAPP Election Observation Mission to Cambodia***

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