ICAPP (The International Conference of Asian Political Parties)

Visit by the ICAPP Mission to the European Parliament

March 12th to 14th, 2024
Strasbourg, EU Parliament

Members of the ICAPP Mission

Hon. Chung Eui-yong, Chairman of the Standing Committee

- Former Minister of Foreign Affairs, Former Director of National Security, Former Chairman of Foreign Relations Committee of the Democratic Party, Republic of Korea

Hon. Mushahid Hussain Sayed, Co-Chairman and Special Rapporteur of the Standing Committee

- Chairman of the Senate Defense Committee, Former Minister of Information and Broadcasting, Former Minister of Communication, Pakistan Muslim League-N, Pakistan

Hon. Suos Yara, Vice Chairman of the Standing Committee

- Chairman of the Commission on Foreign Affairs, International cooperation, Information and Media of the National Assembly, Cambodian People's Party, Cambodia

Hon. Kwon Hee-seog, Secretary General of the Secretariat

- Former Ambassador to Italy and ASEAN, Republic of Korea

Accompanying Staff

- **Ms. Sreynith Lim,** Cambodian People's Party
- **Ms. Ha Soo-min,** Program Officer, ICAPP Secretariat

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I-1 Inaugural Meetings of the ICAPP

◆ ICAPP : **International** Conference of Asian Political Parties

The 1st General Assembly in Manila in September 2000

- Participated by representatives of political parties of **21 countries**

- Convened by Hon. **Jose de Venecia**, Jr., Speaker of the House of Representatives, President of Lakas-CMD Party, Philippines

I-1-2 Inaugural Meetings of the ICAPP

◆ **ICAPP : International Conference of Asian Political Parties**

The 2nd General Assembly in Bangkok in November 2002

- Participated by representatives from **25 countries**

- Hosted by *Pheu Thai* Party

I-3 Inaugural Meetings of the ICAPP

◆ **ICAPP : International Conference of Asian Political Parties**

The 3rd General Assembly in Beijing in September 2004

- Participated by **81 political parties from 31 countries**
- Hosted by Communist Party of China

I-4 Inaugural Meetings of the ICAPP

◆ **ICAPP : International Conference of Asian Political Parties**

The 4th General Assembly in Seoul in September 2006

- Participated by representatives of **90 political parties from 36 countries**
- Adopted the **ICAPP Charter**
- **Co-hosted** by the ruling *Uri* (Democratic) Party and the opposition Grand National (Conservative) Party

II-1-1 Introduction of the ICAPP

◆ **Objectives as stipulated in Article 1 of the ICAPP Charter**

- Promoting cooperation between **political parties with various ideologies**
- Enhancing mutual **understanding and trust among the peoples** and countries
- Promoting regional cooperation through **the channel of political parties**
- Creating an environment for **sustainable peace and shared prosperity**

II-1-2 Introduction of the ICAPP

◆ Visions and Principles in the ICAPP Activities

- **Ultimate Vision**:

  - Building an Asian community

- **Main Principles** (Enshrined in the Preamble of the Charter)

  - Respect for territorial integrity and sovereignty
  - Non-aggression
  - Non-interference in internal affairs
  - Equality and mutual benefit
  - Peaceful co-existence
  - Upholding the U.N. Charter

II-1-3 Introduction of the ICAPP

◆ **Principles in the ICAPP Activities (continued)**

- Other Principles
  - **Consensus-building**, or unanimous decision-making, is one of the main pillars of the ICAPP (Agreed at the 23rd SC Meeting in 2014)
  - All participants in ICAPP meetings should **refrain from raising any issues directly related to bilateral conflicts or disputes** among the countries in the region (Agreed at the 13th SC Meeting in 2010)

II-2 Introduction of the ICAPP

◆ **Three Principles for Eligibility to Participate in the ICAPP Activities**

- **Openness :** All political parties in Asia with elected parliaments (Article 2)
  - 9 out of 62 countries don't have either parliaments or political parties

- **Inclusiveness:** Two Criteria for political parties to participate in the ICAPP programs (Agreed at the 8th SC Meeting in 2007)
  - One percent (%) of elected seats in parliaments, or popular votes in national elections
  - Currently 347 political parties in 53 countries are eligible (as of January 2024)

- **Representativeness**: Countries represented in the Standing Committee are approved at each General Assembly (Article 9)
  - Two principal political parties from each country are invited since 2010
  - Number of SC members was increased from 12 political parties in 12 countries in 2005 to 35 political parties in 23 countries in 2014

II-3 Introduction of the ICAPP

◆ **ICAPP's positions on Current Conflicts**

- On the War in **Ukraine** (Istanbul Declaration at the 11th GA in November 2022)
  - Current territorial disputes pose **serious threats to overall security** in the world
  - We are **against violence in all shapes and sizes**
  - Gravely concerned about the Ukraine conflict's **implication of enormous humanitarian catastrophe**
  - Common challenges **require a collective response**
  - We urged all parties to lay down weapons and **resume diplomatic efforts** and also to **uphold international laws as the only way out for solution** to disputes

- On the Conflict in the **Middle East** (Statement by ICAPP Chairman at the 6th Media Forum Meeting in November 2023)
  - **No terrorist attack can be either justified** or tolerated
  - We **oppose any attempt to punish collectively and militarily the innocent civilians**, including children, for the crimes they didn't commit
  - We call on the international community to **work for an immediate ceasefire**

III-1-1 Achievements of the ICAPP

◆ **Institutionalization**

- Regular Meetings of the **General Assembly** in every 2 years
  - **So far 11 GAs** in Astana (5th), Phnom Penh (6th), Baku (7th), Colombo (8th), Kuala Lumpur (9th), Moscow (10th), Istanbul (11th)

- Expansion and Regular Meetings of the **Standing Committee**
  - Convened biannually, and **so far 40 SC Meetings** since 2005
  - Represented by **35 political parties from 23 countries** since 2014

- Establishment of the **ICAPP Secretariat** in Seoul in 2009

III-1-2. Past Achievements of the ICAPP

◆ **Institutionalization (continued)**

- Establishment and Regular Meetings of ICAPP Affiliated Groups
  - 7 Meetings of the ICAPP **Youth Wing** since 2012
  - 7 Meetings of the ICAPP **Women's Wing** since 2012
  - 6 Meetings of the ICAPP **Media Forum** since 2015
  - 1 Meeting of the ICAPP **Business Council** since 2023
  - 2 Meetings of the **Asian Cultural Council** since 2019
  - 4 Meetings of the ICAPP **Program for Disaster Assistance** since 2015
  - 1 Meeting of the ICAPP **Tourism Promotion & Inter-City Cooperation Council** since 2019

III-1-3. Past Achievements of the ICAPP

◆ **Institutionalization (continued)**

- Special Conferences and Workshops
  - 1st Special Workshop on "State Subsidies for Mainstream Political Parties as a Means to Prevent Political Corruption" in Seoul, May 2008
  - **1 or 2 special conferences per year** since 2009

- Most recent Special Conferences and Workshops
  - Two Special Online Conferences on Covid-19 pandemic and Climate Change in May and December 2021
  - Special Conference on "Asia's Political Development through Political Parties" in Seoul, September 2022
  - Special Conference on "Security and Cooperation: Role of Political Parties in Baku, December 2022
  - Special Workshop on the Role of ICAPP in Jeju, ROK in December 2023

III-1-4. Past Achievements of the ICAPP

◆ **Institutionalization (continued)**

Conclusion of **Inter-governmental Memorandum of Understanding** (MOU) on Cooperation to Support the Activities of the ICAPP in July 2013

So far signed by the **governments of 11 countries**:

Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Cambodia, China, Iran, Kazakhstan, Republic of Korea, Mongolia, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Vietnam

III-2. Achievements of the ICAPP

◆ **Outreach to political parties in Latin America and Africa**

- Meetings with Permanent Conference of Political Parties in Latin America and the Caribbean (*COPPPAL*)

  - So far 5 meetings since the Inaugural Meeting in Buenos Aires in July 2009 with subsequent meetings in Phnom Penh, Mexico City, Baku and Mexico City

- Trilateral Meetings with the *COPPPAL* and the CAPP (Council of African Political Parties)

  - So far three meetings since the Inaugural meeting in Jakarta in April 2016 and subsequent meetings in Tegucigalpa and Moscow
  - Three separate bilateral meetings between ICAPP and CAPP

III-3-1. Achievements of the ICAPP

◆ **Outreach to political parties in Europe**

1st AEPF Meeting in Seoul in July 2017

- Two Topics: "Climate Change" and "Populism in Politics"
- Issued Seoul Statement on "**Launching the Asia-Europe Political Forum**"
- Participated by 21 political parties from 19 countries in Asia, and EPP, ECR and ACRE (Alliance of Conservatives and Reformists in Europe) representing 9 countries in Europe

III-3-2. Past Achievements of the ICAPP

◆ **Outreach to political parties in Europe**

2nd AEPF Meeting in London in May 2018

- Three Topics: "Partnership in regional cooperation and connectivity," "Promotion of Affordable and Clean Energy" and "Disaster Relief, combating major diseases"
- Participated by 19 political parties from 16 countries in Asia, ECR representing 8 countries in Europe and 1 political party in Sweden

III-3-3. Past Achievements of the ICAPP

◆ **Outreach to political parties in Europe**

3rd AEPF Meeting in Colombo in April 2019

- Two Topics: "Social Security and Employment in Aging Society," and "Urgent Currency issue in Asia"
- Participated by 24 political parties from 19 countries in Asia, ECR representatives from 7 countries and 1 political party in Sweden

III-3-4. Past Achievements of the ICAPP

◆ **Outreach to political parties in Europe**

4th AEPF Meeting in Prague in June 2022

- Three Topics: "Lessons from Covid-19," "Perspectives on Globalization," and "Future Europe-Asia Relationship"
- Participated by 19 political parties from 15 countries in Asia, ECR representatives from 6 countries and 4 political parties in Europe, and 16 think-tanks in Asia and Europe

III-3-5. Past Achievements of the ICAPP

◆ **Outreach to political parties in Europe**

5th AEPF Meeting in Kathmandu in October 2023

- Two Topics: "Promoting Sustainable Tourism," and "Safeguarding Financial Stability in the Post-Pandemic Era"
- Participated by 21 political parties from 13 countries in Asia, ECR representing 2 countries in Europe and 2 political parties in Europe

IV. Activities in 2023

- 39th SC Meeting and 1st Meeting of the ICAPP Business Council (Busan, Republic of Korea in April-May)
- 6th Meeting of the Youth Wing and 7th Meeting of the Women's Wing (Ulaanbaatar in August)
- 5th Meeting of the Asia-Europe Political Forum (Kathmandu in October)
- 40th SC Meeting (Kathmandu in October)
- 6th Meeting of the ICAPP Media forum (Seoul in November)
- Special Workshop on "ICAPP's Role" (Jeju, Republic of Korea in December)

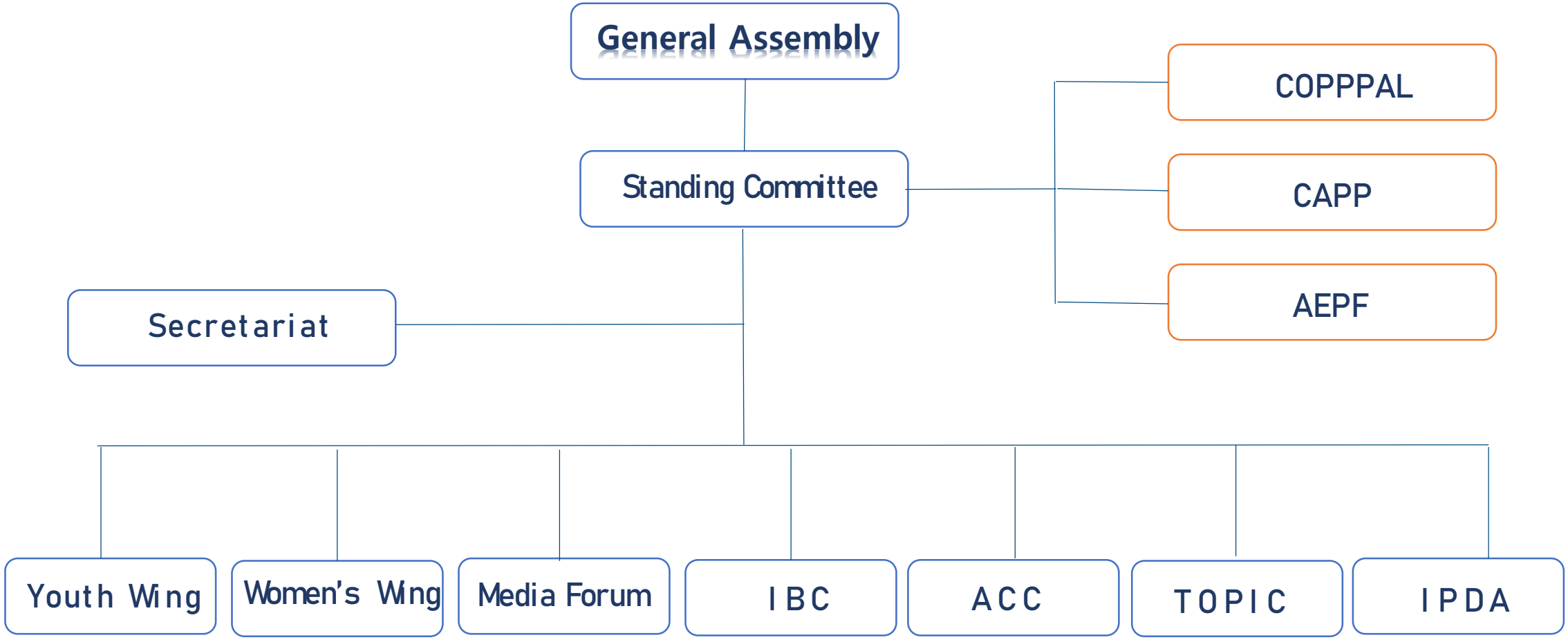
V. ICAPP Work Programs for 2024

- 7th Meeting of the ICAPP Youth Wing (Ulaanbaatar in February)
- 2nd Meeting of the ICAPP Business Council (Bangkok in May)
- 41st SC Meeting (Bangkok in May)
- 8th Meeting of the ICAPP Women's Wing (Ulaanbaatar in August)
- **6th Meeting of the Asia-Europe Political Forum(AEPF)** (Brussels in September)
- **12th GA,** 42nd SC Meeting, 3rd ACC Meeting, 7th Meeting of the ICAPP Media Forum (Phnom Penh in November)
- Special Conferences or Workshops

Elections in the Region:

Bangladesh (January 28), Pakistan (February 8), Indonesia (February 14), Iran (March 1), Russia (March 15-17), Republic of Korea (April 10), India (April-May), Mongolia (June)

VI-1 Conclusions (ICAPP at a Glance)



VI-2 Conclusions (Its Present and Future)

- ICAPP has become a **unique and solid political platform** in Asia, open to all political parties **across the ideological spectrum**

- By holding regular meetings of political leaders, ICAPP has become an **effective tool** in **seeing the potential** of Asia and in **bringing out the best of Asia's unity in diversity**

- ICAPP has also become a **bridge for communication** connecting political groups in Asia, Latin America, Africa, and Europe

- ICAPP **pledges to continue its efforts** to promote cooperation with political parties in other regions, thus contributing to **bringing about peace and stability on a global level**

ICAPP

Thank You, and
We hope to see you again
in Brussels,
Come September