The Special Video Conference concerning the COVID-19 Pandemic
(May 22, 2020 / hosted by the ICAPP )

**Concept Paper**

As of May 13, 2020

## Background

The Impact of COVID-19 pandemic has spread to reach the whole activities of our people, undermining interconnectedness, and hampering development in the world. Some countries began to take a level down of the lockdown measures, but many others are struggling to recover from the destructive influence by the pandemic. Irrespective of some differences in domestic situations, we, leaders of Asian political parties are strongly determined to spare no effort to present a united stance against the common threat.

While we are embracing the postponing or rescheduling of the several important ICAPP meetings such as the meetings of Standing Committee and the Women's Wing and Youth Wing, the ICAPP has a duty to respond, by holding the special video conference, to this unprecedented challenge by the global pandemic.

As the Founding Chairman and SC members already expressed their views on the need to hold the special conference on the COVID-19 via video or online methods, the SC members are kindly invited to participate in the Special Video Conference on the COVID-19 Pandemic.

## Agenda

The Special Video Conference will be held on 22nd May, 2020. The subsequent video conference may be reviewed depending on the future development of the pandemic.

- Agenda: The Impact of the COVID-19 and the Role of the Asian Political Parties

## Participation

At this meeting, the Members of the ICAPP Standing Committee will be invited to present their views on the topic.
The Observers such as representatives from the CAPP (Council of African Political Parties) and COPPPAL (Permanent Conference of Political Parties in Latin America and the Caribbean) may be invited to speak or requested to send video messages to this conference, considering several factors such as their convenient availability and the time differences.

**Tentative Schedule**

1. As has been practiced in the previous meetings of the ICAPP, it would be necessary for the meeting to proceed as follows:

- The speakers will be decided in alphabetical order of the name of country.
- For the smooth management of the meeting, the speakers are kindly requested to present their views within five minutes. The speakers are requested to deliver their remarks focusing on the above-mentioned agenda.

2. The sessions will be conducted in the following manner:

- **Friday, 22 May, 2020**
  - 14:00 Opening Session (at local time in Philippines)
  - 14:15 Plenary Session
  - 17:00 Closing Session
    Adoption of the Statement (if possible)

**Process for preparing for the Video Conference for the SC members**

First, the members of the Standing Committee who wish to participate in the conference are kindly requested to designate their working staff and send the Skype information (mobile telephone numbers and email addresses used by the SC member as a participant and his/her assistant), so that the Secretariat may be able to contact them to check the availability of the connection in advance.

Second, all participants are kindly requested to provide the copies of their speeches and other relevant documents to the ICAPP Secretariat by e-mail at secretariat@theicapp.org prior to the start of the meetings.

If it would be difficult for a SC member to participate in the special video conference on the proposed dates, due to unavoidable reasons such as the internet service for the Skype, he or she may send to the Secretariat their views and opinion in the form of a recorded video messages and a written text.

**Outputs**

A Statement may be adopted at the end of the meetings. The first draft will be prepared by the ICAPP Special Rapporteur and Secretariat and will be circulated to the Members. After consultations on the elements to be included in the statement, it will be circulated to the Standing Committee Members for comments and/or suggestions. The final text of the statement may be adopted on 26 May, 2020 after reflecting the members' views.
Furthermore, the Secretariat is planning to issue a final report that will cover the speeches by the participants.

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