Conclusions of the 34th Meeting of the ICAPP Standing Committee
(Online Conference, 25 November 2020)

The 34th 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 as an online conference on 25 November 2020 due to travel restrictions imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Meeting began and closed with remarks by Hon. Jose de Venecia, Jr., Founding Chairman and Former Speaker of the House of Representatives of Philippines, and was presided by Hon. Chung Eui-yong, Co-Chairman of the SC and Special Advisor to the President for Foreign Affairs and National Security of the Republic of Korea.

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 six changes to the SC Membership since the 33rd Meeting held in Terengganu, Malaysia in December 2019. They welcomed the new SC Members and expressed their appreciation to the departing SC Members for their contributions to the ICAPP activities.

First, as was informed by the ICAPP Update 20-18 on 30 October 2020, after the results of the legislative elections held on 15 April 2020, SC members from the Republic of Korea have been replaced as follows as of 1 June 2020: Hon. Cho Jeong-sik, Member of the National Assembly from the *Minjoo* (Democratic) Party, Chairperson of ICAPP Parliamentarians' Union in the National Assembly, Republic of Korea, has replaced Hon. Park Young-sun. Also, Hon. Ha Tae-Keung, Member of the National Assembly from the People Power Party and Vice Chairperson of the ICAPP Parliamentarians' Union in the National Assembly, Republic of Korea, has replaced Hon. Dr. Lee Hye-hoon.

Second, as was informed by the ICAPP Update 20-21 on 13 November 2020, Hon. Charles Honoris, Deputy Chairman of the Inter-Parliamentary Cooperation Body of Indonesian Democratic Party of Struggle (*PDI-P*), Member of Parliament in Commission I (Foreign Affairs, Security and Defense), has replaced Hon. Andreas Pareira as the representative to the ICAPP SC.

Third, as was informed by the ICAPP Update 20-22 on 18 November 2020, Hon. Efkan Ala, Deputy Chairman and Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Department of the *AK Parti* (Justice and Development Party), Member of Parliament for Bursa, Former Minister of the Interior of the Republic of Turkey, has replaced Hon. Cevdet Yilmaz as the representative to the ICAPP SC.

Fourth, as was informed by the ICAPP Update 20-24 on 20 November 2020, Hon. Rahgir Al-Mahe Ershad, Member of the Standing Committee on Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Member of Parliament of Bangladesh, Joint Secretary of the Central Committee of the *Jatiya* Party, has been designated as the representative to the ICAPP SC.

Lastly, Hon. Anand Sharma, Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Department of the Indian National Congress, has replaced Hon. Karan Singh as the representative to the ICAPP SC. However, the ICAPP Secretariat (hereinafter referred to as the "Secretariat") has yet to receive an official confirmation of the nomination from the Indian National Congress. The Secretariat will circulate an update once the letter 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-5***.

Appointment of the New Secretary General

Hon. Cho Byung-jae, former Ambassador of the Republic of Korea to Malaysia and to Myanmar, and former Chancellor for the Korea National Diplomatic Academy (KNDA), has been appointed by the SC as the new Secretary General of the ICAPP as of 12 October 2020, replacing Ambassador Park Ro-byug, in accordance with Article 13 of the ICAPP Charter.

SC Members welcomed Ambassador Cho Byung-jae and expressed their appreciation to Ambassador Park Ro-byug for his contributions to the ICAPP activities.

The ICAPP Updates 20-14 and 20-15 relating to the appointment of the new Secretary General are attached as ***Appendixes IV-1*** and ***IV-2.***

Future Meetings of the SC

SC Members agreed that plans for the 35th and 36th SC Meetings in 2021 will be determined depending on future developments of the COVID-19 pandemic and resulting travel restrictions. They also agreed that if the global situation does not improve, it would be appropriate to organize these meetings as online conferences during the first and third quarters of 2021.

In this regard, Hon. Cho Jeong-sik, Member of the National Assembly from the *Minjoo* (Democratic) Party, Chairperson of ICAPP Parliamentarians' Union in the National Assembly, Republic of Korea, expressed the willingness to host one of the SC Meetings to be held next year in the Republic of Korea should circumstances around the COVID-19 pandemic permit.

Review of the ICAPP Activities Since the 33rd SC Meeting in December 2019

1st Meeting of Tourism Promotion and Inter-City (TOPIC) Council

The Secretariat reported that the 1st Meeting of Tourism Promotion and Inter-City (TOPIC) Council had been successfully co-hosted by *Parti Islam Se-Malaysia* (*PAS*), the United Malays National Organization (UMNO), and the State of Terengganu in Terengganu, Malaysia during 13-16 December 2019.

The meeting was attended by representatives of 28 political parties from 20 countries and 2 observers, Council of African Political Parties (CAPP) and International Ecological Safety Cooperative Organization (IESCO). During the meeting, the participants exchanged their views on the following themes:

- The roles of political parties for promoting close cooperation for sustainable and dynamic tourism;
- Cooperation in the tourism sector to generate human resources, job opportunities, and a spillover effect in education and healthcare;
- Supporting smart inter-city technology for an innovative tourism community;
- Facilitating the development of niche tourism "The 7-Summit Mountaineering Expedition Initiative for Peace and Integration."

The program, list of participants and the Terengganu Statement from the meeting are attached as ***Appendixes V-1, V-2*** and ***V-3***.

1st Special Video Conference on the COVID-19 Pandemic

The Secretariat reported that the 1st Special Video Conference on the COVID-19 Pandemic was held on 22 May 2020 on the topic of "The Impact of the COVID-19 and the Role of Asian Political Parties." The video conference was attended by representatives of 19 political parties from 14 countries and 2 observers, Permanent Conference of Political Parties in Latin America and Caribbean (*COPPPAL*) and Council of African Political Parties (CAPP).

During the conference, participants discussed the responsibility of policy makers in leading the effort against the COVID-19 pandemic and pledged their commitment to facilitating regional and global cooperation. They also acknowledged the need to hold additional conferences on the COVID-19 pandemic until the situation globally returned to normal.

The list of participants and the "Statement for the Special Video Conference on COVID-19 Pandemic (1)" are attached as ***Appendixes VI-1*** and ***VI-2***.

Tentative Work Program for 2021

SC Members agreed to the tentative work program for 2021, which had been prepared and circulated by the Secretariat in advance of the Meeting, with the following suggestions:

a. *35th and 36th Meetings of the ICAPP Standing Committee (Q1 and Q3 of 2021)*
b. *2nd Meeting of the Asian Cultural Council (ACC) (Online, Q1 of 2021)*
c. *Special Video Conference on Women's Empowerment (Online, February 2021)*
d. *2nd Special Video Conference on the COVID-19 Pandemic (Online, March 2021)*
e. *4th Asia-Europe Political Forum (AEPF) (Prague, Czech Republic, 21-23 May 2021)*
f. *Special Conference on Peace and Cooperation: "Peace and Cooperation Dialogue" (Baku, Azerbaijan, Q2/Q3 2021)*
g. *11th General Assembly, 4th Trilateral Meeting among the ICAPP-COPPPAL-CAPP, 5th Meeting of the ICAPP Media Forum (Istanbul, Turkey, 17-20 September 2021)*
h. *2nd Meeting of the ICAPP Tourism Promotion and Inter-City Cooperation (TOPIC) Council (Tunis, Tunisia, previously scheduled for 13-15 November 2020 but yet to be rescheduled or Istanbul, Turkey, 17-19 September 2021)*
i. *6th Meeting of the ICAPP Youth Wing and 7th Meeting of the ICAPP Women's Wing (Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, October 2021)*

The tentative work program for 2021 is attached as ***Appendix VII***.

Preparations for the 11th General Assembly (GA) and Reminder of the 20th Founding Anniversary of the ICAPP

Proposal from the AK Parti

In January of 2020, the *AK Parti* (Justice and Development Party) of Turkey expressed their willingness to host the 11th GA in conjunction with the SC meeting, the ICAPP Media Forum and the Trilateral Meeting of the ICAPP-*COPPPAL*-CAPP. Initially, the *AK Parti* suggested that these meetings take place in October or November of 2020. In addition, the idea of hosting an event back-to-back with the 11th GA to commemorate the ICAPP's 20th Founding Anniversary, which falls on this year, was suggested during the previous SC meeting.

However, since then, all communications on this item have been suspended due to the COVID-19 pandemic. In this regard, the Secretariat requested SC Members to provide suggestions on rescheduling the 11th GA next year.

Hon. Afif Demirkıran, Deputy Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Department of *AK Parti*, Former Member of Parliament and Co-Chairman of Turkey-EU Joint Parliamentary Committee, on behalf of Hon. Efkan Ala, Deputy Chairman and Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Department of *AK Parti*, Member of Parliament for Bursa, Former Minister of the Interior of Turkey, renewed *AK Parti*'s proposal to host the 11th GA in Istanbul, Turkey in 2021. He suggested that the meeting take place during 17-20 September 2021 in commemoration of the 1st ICAPP meeting, which took place in September 2000 in Manila, Philippines.

In addition, Hon. Afif Demirkıran maintained *AK Parti*'s previous suggestion to host the ICAPP Media Forum and the Trilateral Meeting of the ICAPP-*COPPPAL*-CAPP as sideline meetings at the 11th GA. At the same time, if the Council of African Political Parties (CAPP) is no longer able to host the next TOPIC Council Meeting, he said the *AK Parti* would be interested in hosting it instead of one of the aforementioned sideline meetings. Previously the CAPP had proposed to host the 2nd ICAPP TOPIC Council Meeting in Tunis, Tunisia during 13-15 November 2020. Since then, the Secretariat has followed up with CAPP for updates on the meeting, but has yet to hear back.

Hon. Mushahid Hussain Sayed, Vice Chairperson and Special Rapporteur of the SC, Chairperson of Senate Committee on Foreign Affairs, Pakistan Muslim League-N, recommended that a belated celebration of the 20th Founding Anniversary of the ICAPP still take place at the 11th GA in Istanbul, Turkey. He also proposed that the following two events take place concurrently with the 11th GA: First, he suggested a peace lecture honoring the Founding Chairman Jose de Venecia, Jr. as part of the 20th Founding Anniversary celebration. The ICAPP could invite the Director-General of WHO, Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, to the event to speak about the challenges for Asia during and after the COVID-19 pandemic. Second, since Istanbul is a major tourism hub, he proposed that the next TOPIC Council Meeting also take place in conjunction with the 11th GA.

Hon. Afif Demirkıran, supported both proposals and responded that the *AK Parti* would work with the Secretariat to make appropriate arrangements.

Hon. Nguyen Manh Cuong, Vice Chairman of the Commission for External Relations of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Vietnam, stressed that the 20th Founding Anniversary of the ICAPP was an important and significant milestone and recommended that the SC make efforts to celebrate this event as soon as the situation permits.

Hon. Dr. Andrey Klimov, Vice Chairperson of the ICAPP SC and Deputy Secretary General of the United Russia Party on International Affairs, Russian Federation, informed SC Members that the elections for the State *Duma*, the federal assembly of Russia, will be taking place on 12 September 2021. As such, he requested SC Members to take this event into consideration when finalizing the dates of the GA.

The letter from the *AK Parti* to host the 11th GA is attached as ***Appendix VIII***.

Activities of the ICAPP-affiliated Bodies

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

SC Members were informed through the ICAPP Update 20-11 on 16 June 2020 that the 4th Meeting of the Asia-Europe Political Forum had been postponed to 21-23 May 2021 and was to be held in Prague, Czech Republic. The dates had been suggested by Hon. Jan Zahradil, Member

of the European Parliament and Member of the Bureau of the European Conservatives and Reformists Group (ECR), and confirmed after consultations with SC Members.

The ICAPP Update 20-11 relating to plans for the AEPF Meeting is attached as ***Appendix IX***.

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

In December 2019, the Mongolian People's Party offered to host the 6th Meeting of the ICAPP Youth Wing and the 7th Meeting of the Women's Wing in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, during 20-22 April 2020. Since then, the meetings have been postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

In this regard, Hon. Saikhansanaa Khurelbaatar reiterated her party's wish 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. Next year marks the 100th anniversary of the establishment of the Mongolian People's Party.

The previous letter of invitation and request for postponement of the meetings from the Mongolian People's Party are attached as ***Appendixes X-1*** and ***X-2***.

The 2nd Meeting of the ICAPP Tourism Promotion and Inter-City Cooperation (TOPIC) Council

At the 1st ICAPP TOPIC Council Meeting, which took place in Terengganu, Malaysia during 13-16 December 2019, Mr. Mohamed Yousif Abdalla Mohamed, Deputy Secretary General of Council of African Political Parties (CAPP), proposed that the ICAPP and CAPP organize a joint Africa-Asia tourism promotion cooperation in 2020. He added that the Economic Council of CAPP will coordinate with the Secretariat to determine the date and venue of the conference. In this regard, Mr. Amor Belkhiria, President of the Economic Council of CAPP, invited the ICAPP to co-organize a meeting between Africa and Asia in Tunisia.

In the follow-up correspondences between the Secretariat and the Economic Council of CAPP, the timing of the meeting was tentatively scheduled for 13-15 November 2020. Since then, the ICAPP Secretariat has followed up with CAPP for updates on the meeting but has yet to hear back. As such, the Secretariat requested SC Members for proposals or suggestions for future TOPIC Council meetings.

In this regard, Hon. Afif Demirkıran, Deputy Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Department of *AK Parti*, Former Member of Parliament and Co-Chairman of Turkey-EU Joint Parliamentary Committee, stated that the *AK Parti* would welcome the opportunity to host the next TOPIC Council Meeting in addition to the 11th GA if the CAPP is no longer able to host the meeting.

The 2nd Asian Cultural Council (ACC) Meeting

Hon. Khuon Sudary, Vice Chairperson of the ICAPP SC, Chairperson of the ACC and Member of the Standing Committee of the Cambodian People's Party, reported on the recent activities and future plans of the ACC. She informed SC Members that the ACC had built institutional

partnerships with several organizations, including the UNESCO, Organization of World Heritage Cities and the provincial government of Gyeongsangbuk-do in the Republic of Korea.

Hon. Khuon Sudary also added that the ACC had implemented the TECHO 100 Model Villages Project in cooperation with the Civil Society Alliance Forum and the Asian Vision Institute. Asian Development Bank (ADB) had agreed to contribute three million U.S. dollars to the Royal Government of Cambodia for piloting this project.

With regards to future activities, Hon. Khuon Sudary informed SC Members that the ACC was planning to organize the 2nd ACC Meeting in the first quarter of 2021 under the theme of "Harnessing Culture and Innovation for Shared Prosperity During and After the COVID-19 Pandemic." The meeting will be conducted virtually and all ICAPP Members will be invited.

ICAPP Program for Disasters Assistance (IPDA) Activities

The last meeting of the ICAPP Program for Disaster Assistance (IPDA) Steering Committee took place on 2 September 2016 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. Since then, numerous natural disasters have occurred in Asia, including the devastating floods in Jakarta and the eruption of the Taal Volcano, which resulted in mass evacuations of over 300,000 people in the Philippines this year. In this regard, SC Members were requested to submit any suggestions on the continuation and reinvigoration of IPDA activities.

ICAPP Special Conferences

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

SC Members agreed to the Secretariat's proposal to hold the 2nd Special Video Conference on the COVID-19 Pandemic during the first quarter of 2021 in the same format as last time over an online platform.

In response, Hon. Ha Tae-Keung, Member of the National Assembly from the People Power Party and Vice Chairperson of the ICAPP Parliamentarians' Union of the National Assembly, Republic of Korea, emphasized the need to hold follow-up discussions given the importance of international cooperation during the crisis.

Hon. Mushahid Hussain Sayed, Vice Chairperson and Special Rapporteur of the SC, Chairperson of Senate Committee on Foreign Affairs, Pakistan Muslim League-N, suggested that the Secretariat host the 2nd Special Video Conference on the COVID-19 Pandemic in March 2021, which would mark one year since the global outbreak of the pandemic. He also suggested that the meeting focus on three areas: First, vaccine development and equitable distribution featuring remarks by representatives from WHO and other experts; Second, poverty alleviation and revival of the economy; Third, online work culture, given how the COVID-19 pandemic has transformed the working lives of people.

The draft concept paper that the Secretariat prepared and circulated in advance of the Meeting for discussions on the 2nd Special Video Conference on the COVID-19 Pandemic is attached as ***Appendix XI***.

Special Video Conference on Women's Empowerment

Hon. Dr. Nalinee Taveesin, Former Thailand Trade Representative, Former Minister Attached to the Prime Minister's Office, *Pheu Thai* Party, proposed to hold an online conference in February 2021 on the topic of empowering women during and after the COVID-19 pandemic.

Special Conference on Peace and Cooperation: "Peace and Cooperation Dialogue"

Hon. Ali Javad Ahmadov, Deputy Prime Minster of Azerbaijan and Deputy Chairman of New Azerbaijan Party, emphasized the importance of designing and promoting international law and mechanisms so that they can truly be effective. He supported the initiative to reflect on international management and principles of law. He also called for the ICAPP's participation in this initiative. In particular, he suggested hosting a special conference on peace and cooperation, "Peace and Cooperation Dialogue," in the middle of 2021. He stated that the New Azerbaijan Party would host this conference in Baku, Azerbaijan in support of the ICAPP.

Other Issues

Cooperation with Political Parties Outside of Asia

During the Meeting, Ms. Sofía Carvajal Isunza, Executive Secretary of the Permanent Conference of Political Parties in Latin America and Caribbean (*COPPPAL*) on behalf of Hon. Alejandro Moreno Cárdenas, President of *COPPPAL*, reiterated the importance of continuing the collaboration between Asia and Latin America through activities of the ICAPP and *COPPPAL*. She also emphasized the importance of strengthening the system of party representation by maintaining the validity of multilateral institutions.

Separately, during the 33rd SC Meeting, some SC Members had proposed to expand the ICAPP's global outreach by inviting political parties from North America as observers to the ICAPP meetings such as AEPF. In this regard, it was also advised that the SC proceed with next year's AEPF meeting without inviting political parties from North America given the region's polarized political situation.

Improvements on the ICAPP Secretariat Website

The Secretariat informed SC Members that the ICAPP website (www.theicapp.org) had been upgraded with a new design and website management system since 10 July 2020. The Secretariat also reported that it was open to comments and feedback from SC Members in an effort to continue developing and maintaining the website.

In this regard Hon. Guo Yezhou, Vice Chairperson of the SC, Vice Minister of the International Department of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China, proposed that a dedicated column be added to a highly visible section of the website to provide overviews and updates on political parties. He stated that this would encourage sharing of governance experiences and allow timely communication of important developments of individual parties. He also commented that this feature would go a long way in promoting better understanding and communication among SC Members.

The Creation of a WhatsApp Group Among SC Members

Hon. Vijay Jolly, President of Delhi Study Group, Senior Indian Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) Leader, Republic of India, suggested that in keeping with modern times, the ICAPP leadership should have access to an ICAPP *WhatsApp* group, through which they can share activities and updates from their respective countries. He asked that the Secretariat take the lead in the execution of this request.

The Creation of a Task Force, "The Five Security Members of the ICAPP"

Hon. Youssef Awad, Coordinator for Asia and Overseas, Free Patriotic Movement Party, Lebanese Republic, reiterated a proposal he had previously made during the 10th GA, which took place during 24-27 October in Moscow, Russia. He proposed to form a task force called "The Five Security Members of the ICAPP" to promote peace and to provide solutions to unexpected international situations. He suggested that the task force be comprised of four SC Members representing East Asia, Southeast Asia, South Asia, and Western Asia and a fifth member representing Europe, South America or Africa depending on the urgent situation.

Appendixes

I. Documents for the 34th Meeting of the ICAPP SC

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

II. List of SC Members

III. Official Letters of Appointment of New SC Members

1. *Letter from the Minjoo (Democratic) Party, Republic of Korea*
2. *Letter from the People Power Party, Republic of Korea*
3. *Letter from the Indonesian Democratic Party of Struggle (PDI-P), Indonesia*
4. *Letter from the AK Parti (Justice and Development Party), Turkey*
5. *Letter from the Jatiya Party, Bangladesh*

IV. ICAPP Updates regarding Appointment of New Secretary General

1. *ICAPP Update 20-14*
2. *ICAPP Update 20-15*

V. 1st Meeting of the ICAPP TOPIC Council

1. *The Program*
2. *List of Participants*
3. *Terengganu Statement*

VI. 1st Special Video Conference on the COVID-19 Pandemic

1. *List of Participants*
2. *Statement for the Special Video Conference on COVID-19 Pandemic (1)*

VII. Tentative Work Program for 2021

VIII. Letter from the AK Parti to Host the 11th General Assembly

IX. ICAPP Update 20-11 regarding the 4th Meeting of the AEPF

X. Communication from the Mongolian People's Party regarding the 6th Meeting of the ICAPP Youth Wing and the 7th Meeting of the ICAPP Women's Wing

1. *Letter of Invitation to Host the Meetings*
2. *Request for Postponement of the Meetings*

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