Documents for the ICAPP Special Conference on "Asia's Political Development through Political Parties"

(Seoul, Korea, 28-30 September 2022)

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Special Conference on
"Asia's Political Development through Political Parties"
(*Seoul, Korea, 28-30 September 2022***)**

ICAPP/15CON/001

Program

Wednesday 28 September

Arrival of Delegates and Check-in at The Plaza Hotel Seoul

- Address: 119 Sogong-ro, Jung-gu, Seoul, Republic of Korea
- Phone Number: +82-2-772-2200

19:00-21:00 **Welcoming Dinner** hosted by Hon. Cho Jeong-sik, Member of the ICAPP Standing Committee, Secretary-General of the *Minjoo* (Democratic) Party, Member of the National Assembly (Foreign Affairs and Unification Committee), Chairperson of the ICAPP Parliamentarians' Union in the National Assembly of Korea, Republic of Korea

- *Venue: 22nd FL., Diamond Hall, The Plaza Hotel Seoul*
- **Welcoming Remarks** by Hon. Cho Jeong-sik, Member of the ICAPP Standing Committee, Chairperson of the ICAPP Parliamentarians' Union in the National Assembly of Korea, Republic of Korea
- **Welcoming Remarks** by Hon. Ha Tae-keung, Member of the ICAPP Standing Committee, Vice-Chairperson of the ICAPP Business Council (IBC), Member of the National Assembly (Foreig n Affairs and Unification Committee), Vice-Chairperson of the ICAPP Parliamentarians' Union in the National Assembly of Korea, People Power Party, Republic of Korea
- **Congratulatory Remarks** by Hon. Chung Eui-yong, Co-Chairperson of the ICAPP Standing Committee, former Minister of Foreign Affairs, former Director of the Office of National Security, Republic of Korea

Thursday 29 September

08:30-08:45 **Opening Session**

- *Venue: 22nd FL., Diamond Hall, The Plaza Hotel Seoul*
- **Opening Remarks** by Hon. Cho Jeong-sik, Member of the ICAPP Standing Committee, Chairperson of the ICAPP Parliamentarians' Union in the National Assembly of Korea, Republic of Korea
- **Opening Remarks by** Hon. Ha Tae-keung, Member of the ICAPP Standing Committee, Vice-Chairperson of the ICAPP Parliamentarians' Union in the National Assembly of Korea, People Power Party, Republic of Korea
- **Keynote Remarks** by Hon. Kim Jin-pyo, Speaker of the National Assembly, Republic of Korea

- Remarks by participants

08:45-09:00 **Group Photo**

09:00-10:30 **1st Session**: Roles of Political Parties in Advancing Democracy

- **Moderator**: Hon. Suos Yara, Chairperson of the Commission of Foreign Affairs, International Cooperation, Media and Information of the National Assembly, Vice-Chairperson of External Relations Commission of the Cambodian People's Party (CPP), Director-General of Asian Cultural Council (ACC), Cambodia
- Remarks by participants

10:30-10:45 Coffee Break

10:45-12:15 **2nd Session**: Public Election System and Development of Political Parties

- **Moderator**: Hon. Ramin Mammadov, Board Member of the New Azerbaijan Party (*YAP*), Member of the *Milli Majlis* (Parliament), Azerbaijan
- **Introduction** of Korea's Election System by Prof. Moon Eun-young, Professor at the National Election Commission of the Republic of Korea (20 minutes)
- **Q&A Session**
- Remarks by participants

12:15-12:30 **Closing Session**

- **Adoption of Seoul Statement** by Hon. Suos Yara, Vice-Chairperson of External Relations Commission of CPP, Cambodia
- **Closing Remarks** by Hon. Chung Eui-yong, Co-Chairperson of the ICAPP Standing Committee, Republic of Korea

12:30-13:45 **Luncheon** hosted by Hon. Chung Eui-yong, Co-Chairperson of the ICAPP Standing Committee, Republic of Korea

- *Venue: 4th FL., Maple Hall, The Plaza Hotel Seoul*

Afternoon **Tour / Free Time**

Friday 30 September

Departure of Delegates

ICAPP/15CON/002

List of Participants

1. 13 Countries, 23 Political Parties

- **Azerbaijan**, Republic of (2)

  New Azerbaijan Party (*YAP*) (2)

  - Hon. Ramin Mammadov, Board Member of the *YAP*, Member of the *Milli Majlis* (Parliament)
  - Mr. Taleh Hasanzade, Senior Advisor at the Department of International Relations and Humanitarian Affairs of the Central Office of the *YAP*

- **Bangladesh**, People's Republic of (2)

  ***Jatiya* Party (National Party of Bangladesh)** (2)

  - Hon. Mostafa Al Mahmud, Presidium Member of the *Jatiya* Party
  - Hon. Rana Mohammad Sohail, Member of Parliament

- **Cambodia**, Kingdom of (7)

  Cambodian People's Party (CPP) (4)

  - Hon. Suos Yara, Chairperson of the Commission of Foreign Affairs, International Cooperation, Media and Information of the National Assembly, Vice-Chairperson of External Relations Commission of CPP, Director-General of Asian Cultural Council (ACC)
  - Dr. Chheng Kimlong, Member of the Strategic Group of the External Relations Commission of CPP, Vice-President of Asian Vision Institute, Advisor to the National Assembly of Cambodia
  - Ms. Lim Sreynith, Head of ICAPP-ACC-Cambodia Working Group, Deputy Chief of Secretariat of External Relations Commission of CPP
  - Mrs. Daroat Heang, Spouse of Hon. Suos Yara

  ***FUNCINPEC* Party** (3)

  - HRH. Norodom Chakravuth, President of the *FUNCINPEC* Party
  - HRH. Norodom Rattana-Devi, Vice President of the *FUNCINPEC* Party
  - Mr. Thach Bunroeun. Advisor to the President of the *FUNCINPEC* Party

- **Indonesia**, Republic of (2)

  Indonesian Democratic Party of Struggle (*PDI-P*) (1)

  - Mr. Mahmuddin Muslim, Chairperson of the Department of the *UKM* (Small-Medium Enterprises), *Baitul Muslimin* Indonesia of the *PDI-P*

  ***Golkar* Party (Party of Functional Groups)** (1)

  - Ms. Diana Widyastuti, Member of the Central Executive Board of the *Golkar* Party

- **Korea**, Republic of (14)

  <u>The *Minjoo* (Democratic) Party</u> (8)

  - Hon. Cho Jeong-sik, Member of the ICAPP Standing Committee, Secretary-General of the *Minjoo* Party, Member of the National Assembly (Foreign Affairs and Unification Committee), Chairperson of the ICAPP Parliamentarians' Union in the National Assembly of Korea
  - Hon. Kang Hoon-sik, Member of the National Assembly (Health and Welfare Committee), Vice-Chairperson of the ICAPP Parliamentarians' Union in the National Assembly of Korea
  - Hon. Kim Sung-joo, Member of the National Assembly (National Policy Committee; Special Committee on Pension Reform)
  - Hon. Lee Hae-sik, Member of the National Assembly (Public Administration and Security Committee; Special Committee on Pension Reform)
  - Hon. Jung Tae-ho, Member of the National Assembly (Strategy and Finance Committee; Special Committee on Pension Reform)
  - Hon. Yang Kyung-sook, Member of the National Assembly (House Steering Committee; Strategy and Finance Committee)
  - Ms. Kim Eun-hee, Parliamentary Secretary
  - Mr. Kim Jae-hoon, Parliamentary Secretary

  <u>People Power Party</u> (6)

  - Hon. Ha Tae-keung, Member of the ICAPP Standing Committee, Member of the National Assembly (Foreign Affairs and Unification Committee), Vice-Chairperson of the ICAPP Parliamentarians' Union in the National Assembly of Korea
  - Hon. Lee Myoung-su, Member of the National Assembly (Foreign Affairs and Unification Committee)
  - Hon. Kim Seung-su, Member of the National Assembly (Culture, Sports, and Tourism Committee)
  - Hon. Kim Yong-pan, Member of the National Assembly (Public Administration and Security Committee)
  - Hon. Jung Hee-yong, Member of the National Assembly (Special Committee on Budget and Accounts; Agriculture, Food, Rural Affairs, Oceans, and Fisheries Committee; Special Committee on Political Reform)
  - Hon. Han Moo-kyung, Member of the National Assembly (House Steering Committee; Trade, Industry, Energy, SMEs, and Startups Committee; Special Committee on Supporting Busan's Bid for World Expo 2030)

- **Malaysia** (1)

  <u>Malaysian Chinese Association (MCA)</u> (1)

  - Dr. Tee Ching Seng, Chairperson of the International Communication and Diplomacy Bureau of MCA, Central Committee Member of MCA

- **Mongolia** (9)

  Mongolian People's Party (MPP) (3)

  - Hon. Tselmuun Manlaijav, Head of the Foreign Relations Department of the MPP
  - Mr. Bayarbaatar Bayarmagnai, Chairperson of the General Commission for Supervision
  - Ms. Otgonjargal Rentsenkhand, Political Officer of the Foreign Relations Department of the MPP

  Democratic Party (6)

  - Hon. Erdene Sodnomzundui, Chairperson of the Democratic Party
  - Ms. Altantsetseg Tserendulam, Deputy Chairperson of the Democratic Party
  - Ms. Narantuya Ishbadam, Deputy Head of Constitution Committee of the Democratic Party
  - Ms. Ninjbadgar Narmandakh, Member of the National Policy Committee of the Democratic Party
  - Ms. Gangamurun Munkhjargal, Interpreter, Member of the Democratic Party
  - Mr. Galt Shambii, Member of the Democratic Party

- **Nepal,** Federal Democratic Republic of (1)

  Communist Party of Nepal (CPN-UML) (1)

  - Mr. Krishna Bahadur KC, Member of the Central Committee and Deputy Chief of Foreign Affairs Department of the CPN-UML

- **Singapore,** Republic of (5)

  Reform Party (2)

  - Mr. Mahaboob Batcha, Treasurer and Central Executive Committee Member of the Reform Party
  - Mr. Thaddeus Thomas, Central Executive Committee Member of the Reform Party

  Red Dot United (2)

  - Mr. Ravi Chandran Philemon, Secretary-General of the Red Dot United
  - Mr. James Gomez Jovian Messiah, Central Executive Council Member and Youth Wing Leader of the Red Dot United

  Singapore United Party (1)

  - Ms. Noraini Yunus, Treasurer of the Singapore United Party

- **Sri Lanka,** Democratic Socialist Republic of (3)

  United National Party (UNP) (3)

  - Hon. Daya Gamage, Member of the ICAPP Standing Committee, former Minister of Primary Industries and Social Empowerment, former Vice-Chairperson of UNP
  - Mrs. Anoma Gamage, Spouse of Hon. Daya Gamage
  - Mr. Lasith Hemila Senanayake, Member of UNP

- **Tanzania**, United Republic of (2)

  Alliance for Change and Transparency (*ACT Wazalendo*) (2)

  - Hon. Zitto Kabwe, Leader of the *ACT Wazalendo*
  - Mr. Seif Issa, Secretary at the Party Leader's Office

- **Uzbekistan**, Republic of (6)

  Uzbekistan Liberal Democratic Party (*O'zLiDeP*) (2)

  - Hon. Dilshod Shoumarov, Vice Chairperson of the Executive Committee of the Political Council of *O'zLiDeP*
  - Mrs. Sayyora Shoumarova, Translator for Hon. Dilshod Shoumarov

  Uzbekistan "National Revival (*Milly Tiklanish*)" Democratic Party (*UzMTDP*) (1)

  - Mr. Bakhodirjon Mamatkhonov, Vice Chairperson of the Central Council for Organizational Party and Personnel Issues of the *UzMTDP*

  Justice Social Democratic Party (*ASDP*) (1)

  - Hon. Umidjon Sulaymonov, First Vice-Chairperson of the Political Council of *ASDP*

  People's Democratic Party of Uzbekistan (1)

  - Mr. Tulkin Turaxonov, Vice Chairperson of the People's Democratic Party of Uzbekistan

  Ecological Party of Uzbekistan (1)

  - Hon. Kamol Jumaniyozov, Member of the Legislative Chamber of *Oliy Majlis* (Parliament)

- **Vietnam**, Socialist Republic of (3)

  Communist Party of Vietnam (CPV) (3)

  - Mr. Le Thanh Tung, Deputy Director-General of the Department of General Political Affairs and Research, Commission of External Relations of the Central Committee of the CPV
  - Ms. Hoang Viet Ha, Officer of the Commission of External Relations of the Central Committee of the CPV
  - Ms. Bach Thi Thu Nga, Officer of the Commission of External Relations of the Central Committee of the CPV

2. **Co-Chairperson of the ICAPP** (1)

   - Hon. Chung Eui-yong, Co-Chairperson of the ICAPP Standing Committee, former Minister of Foreign Affairs, former Director of the Office of National Security, Republic of Korea

3. **ICAPP Secretariat** (5)

   - Hon. Cho Byung-jae, Secretary-General of the ICAPP Secretariat and the Coordination Secretariat of the ICAPP-*COPPPAL*-CAPP, former Chancellor of

Korea National Diplomatic Academy, former Ambassador to Malaysia and Myanmar, Republic of Korea

- Ms. Park Hyun-ryang, Director of the ICAPP
- Mr. Kim Deok-su, Program Officer
- Ms. Chou Si-su, Program Officer
- Ms. Kim Min-soo, Program Officer

4. **ICAPP Parliamentarians' Union in the National Assembly of Korea** (2)
    - Ms. Byeon Da-yeon, Deputy Director of the ICAPP Parliamentarians' Union in the National Assembly of Korea
    - Mr. Kang Min-seok, Intern at the ICAPP Parliamentarians' Union in the National Assembly of Korea

5. **Special Participants** (17)
    - Hon. Md. Delwar Hossain, Ambassador of Bangladesh
    - Hon. Saeed Badamchi Shabestari, Ambassador of Iran
    - Hon. Antoine Azzam, Ambassador of Lebanon
    - Hon. Datuk Lim Juay Jin, Ambassador of Malaysia
    - Hon. Chafik Rachadi, Ambassador of Morocco
    - Hon. Maria Theresa Dizon-De Vega, Ambassador of the Philippines
    - Hon. Savitri Indrachapa Panabokke, Ambassador of Sri Lanka
    - Hon. Togolani Edriss Mavura, Ambassador of Tanzania
    - Hon. Murat Tamer, Ambassador of Türkiye
    - Hon. Vu Tung Nguyen, Ambassador of Vietnam
    - Ms. Rasha Atamny, Chargé d'affaires of Israel
    - Mr. Vasif Aliyev, Counsellor of Azerbaijan
    - Mr. Zokir Saidov, Deputy Head of Mission of Uzbekistan
    - Hon. Kim Jin-pyo, Speaker of the National Assembly, Republic of Korea
    - Hon. Yang Jung-suk, Member of the National Assembly (National Policy Committee; Special Committee on Budget and Accounts), Republic of Korea
    - Hon. Lee Baek-soon, Special Advisor of the ICAPP, former Ambassador to Myanmar and Australia, Republic of Korea
    - Prof. Moon Eun-young, Professor at the National Election Commission, Republic of Korea

ICAPP/15CON/003

(Draft) Seoul Statement

We, the leaders and representatives of 23 political parties from 13 countries, gathered in Seoul, Republic of Korea for the ICAPP Special Conference on "Asia's Political Development through Political Parties" during 28-30 September 2022. At the conference, we focused on two topics, i.e. "Roles of Political Parties in Advancing Democracy" and "Public Election System and Development of Political Parties," and reaffirmed as follows:

1. Political parties are the driving force to advance democracy. It is, therefore, essential that political parties remain open, accessible, inclusive and efficient, connected with and responsive to the people they represent, and vigilant against corruption and injustice in their societies;

2. The roles of political parties have become even more important in this increasingly intertwined world to jointly face common challenges, such as pandemic, extreme weather conditions and returning geopolitical tensions, and to ensure more equitable and sustainable development within and between our countries; and

3. Public elections are the cornerstone of the democratic process, and impartial oversight and credible management of elections is the key to legitimate and democratic governments. In this regard, the elements for a model legislation which were recommended at the "1st Special ICAPP Workshop on State Subsidies for Mainstream Political Parties as a Means to Prevent Political Corruption," held in Seoul, Republic of Korea, on 24 May 2008, still remain relevant.

We expressed our profound gratitude to our co-hosts, the People Power Party and the *Minjoo* (Democratic) Party of the Republic of Korea, for their warm hospitality and excellent arrangements of the conference. Our special thanks goes to the Korean National Election Commission for its briefing on the public election management system in Korea. We also expressed our appreciation to the ICAPP Secretariat for its cooperation for the success of the conference.

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ICAPP/15CON/003

List of Speakers

Opening Session (29 September, 08:30-08:45)

1. **Opening Remarks** by **Hon. Cho Jeong-sik**, Member of the ICAPP Standing Committee, Secretary-General of the *Minjoo* (Democratic) Party, Member of the National Assembly (Foreign Affairs and Unification Committee), Chairperson of the ICAPP Parliamentarians' Union in the National Assembly of Korea, Republic of Korea
2. **Opening Remarks** by **Hon. Ha Tae-keung**, Member of the ICAPP Standing Committee, Vice-Chairperson of the ICAPP Business Council (IBC), Member of the National Assembly (Foreign Affairs and Unification Committee), Vice-Chairperson of the ICAPP Parliamentarians' Union in the National Assembly of Korea, People Power Party, Republic of Korea
3. **Congratulatory Remarks** by **Hon. Kim Jin-pyo**, Speaker of the National Assembly, Republic of Korea

1st Session: Roles of Political Parties in Advancing Democracy (29 September, 09:00-10:30)

Moderator: Hon. Suos Yara, Chairperson of the Commission of Foreign Affairs, International Cooperation, Media and Information of the National Assembly, Vice-Chairperson of External Relations Commission of Cambodian People's Party (CPP), Director-General of Asian Cultural Council (ACC), Cambodia

1. **Hon. Daya Gamage**, Member of the ICAPP Standing Committee, former Minister of Primary Industries and Social Empowerment, former Vice-Chairperson of the United National Party (UNP), Sri Lanka
2. **Hon. Kang Hoon-sik**, Member of the National Assembly (Health and Welfare Committee), Vice-Chairperson of the ICAPP Parliamentarians' Union in the National Assembly of Korea, The *Minjoo* (Democratic) Party, Republic of Korea
3. **Hon. Suos Yara**, Chairperson of the Commission of Foreign Affairs, International Cooperation, Media and Information of the National Assembly, Vice-Chairperson of External Relations Commission of CPP, Director-General of ACC, Cambodia
4. **HRH. Norodom Rattana-Devi**, Vice President of the *FUNCINPEC* Party, Cambodia
5. **Hon. Zitto Kabwe**, Leader of the Alliance for Change and Transparency Party (*ACT Wazalendo*), Tanzania
6. **Hon. Ramin Mammadov**, Board Member of the New Azerbaijan Party (*YAP*), Member of the *Milli Majlis* (Parliament), Azerbaijan
7. **Hon. Umidjon Sulaymonov**, First Vice-Chairperson of the Political Council of the Justice Social Democratic Party (*ASDP*), Uzbekistan
8. **Mr. Le Thanh Tung**, Deputy Director-General of the Department of General Political Affairs and Research, Commission of External Relations of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Vietnam (CPV), Vietnam

9. **Mr. Krishna Bahadur KC**, Member of the Central Committee and Deputy Chief of Foreign Affairs Department of the Communist Party of Nepal (CPN-UML), Nepal
10. **Mr. Thaddeus Thomas**, Central Executive Committee Member of the Reform Party, Singapore
11. **Ms. Diana Widyastuti,** Member of the Central Executive Board of *Golkar* Party, Indonesia
12. **Mr. James Gomez Jovian Messiah**, Central Executive Council Member and Youth Wing Leader of the Red Dot United, Singapore

2nd Session: Public Election System and Development of Political Parties (29 September, 10:45-12:15)

Moderator: Hon. Ramin Mammadov, Board Member of *YAP*, Member of the *Milli Majlis* (Parliament), Azerbaijan

Introduction of Korea's Election System by Prof. Moon Eun-young, Professor at the National Election Commission, Republic of Korea

1. **Hon. Erdene Sodnomzundui**, Chairperson of the Democratic Party, Mongolia
2. **Hon. Rana Mohammad Sohail**, Member of the Parliament, *Jatiya* Party, Bangladesh
3. **Dr. Tee Ching Seng**, Chairperson of the International Communication and Diplomacy Bureau of Malaysian Chinese Association (MCA), Central Committee Member of MCA, Malaysia
4. **Dr. Chheng Kimlong**, Member of the Strategic Group of the External Relations Commission of CPP, Vice-President of Asian Vision Institute, Advisor to the National Assembly of Cambodia, Cambodia
5. **Ms. Noraini Yunus**, Treasurer of the Singapore United Party, Singapore
6. **Hon. Han Moo-kyung**, Member of the National Assembly ((House Steering Committee; Trade, Industry, Energy, SMEs, and Startups Committee; Special Committee on Supporting Busan's Bid for World Expo 2030), People Power Party, Republic of Korea

Closing Session (29 September, 12:15-12:30)

1. **Adoption of the Seoul Statement** by **Hon. Suos Yara**, Chairperson of the Commission of Foreign Affairs, International Cooperation, Media and Information of the National Assembly, Vice-Chairperson of External Relations Commission of CPP, Director-General of ACC, Cambodia
2. **Closing Remarks** by **Hon. Chung Eui-yong**, Co-Chairperson of the ICAPP Standing Committee, former Minister of Foreign Affairs, former Director of the Office of National Security, Republic of Korea

ICAPP/15CON/005

Rules of Procedure

1. Registration

- Each delegate should complete his/her registration form and submit it to the ICAPP Secretariat at secretariat@theicapp.org by **Friday, 19 August 2022**. A separate registration form is required for each participant.

2. Presentations

- One (1) delegate from each participating political party will be invited to speak in either one of the sessions of their preference.
- Each participating party should indicate the name of the speaker and its preference for the sub-topic in its registration form.
- **The list of speakers will be in the order of registration forms received**, and it will be circulated by the Secretariat in advance of the conference.
- The speakers are requested to make their remarks related to the conference topics.
- For the smooth conduct of the conference, the time for each presentation may be limited to less than five (5) minutes which may be adjusted in accordance with the number of speakers.
- All participants who signed up to speak are requested to send copies of their remarks to the Secretariat at secretariat@theicapp.org before the conference.

3. Statement

- The Seoul Statement will be adopted at the Closing Session.
- The initial draft statement will be prepared and circulated by the ICAPP Secretariat. All participating delegations are encouraged to submit to the ICAPP Secretariat their ideas that they want to be reflected in the final statement in advance of the meeting. The draft statement will be circulated to all participants one week in advance of the meeting.
- All participants are requested to submit comments or suggestions, if any, on the draft statement to the Secretariat at secretariat@theicapp.org by Wednesday, 28 September 2022 in written form. The revised draft incorporating these comments and suggestions will be circulated by the Secretariat to the participants on the morning of Thursday, 29 September 2022.
- After consultations with the participants, the final statement will be completed and circulated before the closing session.

4. Final Report

- After the conference, the ICAPP Secretariat, in coordination with the People Power Party and the *Minjoo* Party, will prepare and circulate a final report that summarizes the main results of the conference.

5. Working Language

- The conference will be conducted in English in accordance with Article 15 of the ICAPP Charter.
- Participants will be responsible for their own interpreters should they require such services. However, the same time limit will be applied to all participants regardless of their use of interpreter services. As such, simultaneous rather than consecutive interpretation is recommended.

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ICAPP/15CON/006

Travel Advisory

Covid-19 Related Information

The quarantine is lifted in Korea to all travelers regardless of the vaccination status as of 8 June.

The submission of a negative COVID-19 test result from pre-entry inspection is also lifted as of 3 September.

To facilitate the entry process, each traveler can receive an individual QR code via email after completing their Quarantine Information Advance Input System (Q-Code) registration which will be then submitted to quarantine officials upon entry. For more detailed information, please check https://cov19ent.kdca.go.kr/cpassportal/ .

After arrival, foreign travelers must take a mandatory PCR test within 24 hours of arrival and update the result in the Q-Code system. If tested positive, the quarantine is mandatory for 7 days. The hosts will not cover the testing expenses in Korea nor any extended stay in case of a confirmed case of Covid-19. Quarantine arrangements within the hotel and the extension of stay must be made directly by the participants.

The PCR and RAT testing centers are available throughout Seoul as well as at the Incheon International Airport. Designated volunteers will assist with booking appointments for Covid-19 testing.

Visa

Participants may apply for their visas at the Embassy or the Consulate of the Republic of Korea in their respective countries. The hosts and the ICAPP Secretariat will not be able to assist you with visa applications.

Local Accommodation

For the participants of the Special Conference, the host will provide local accommodation for up to two (2) representatives from each party for up to two (2) nights.

The use of facilities in the hotel including phone calls, laundry service, mini-bar, room service, business center, etc., will not be covered.

Accompanying delegates, other than two (2) representatives who are expected to attend the conference, shall be responsible for their own accommodation.

Transportation from/to the Airport

Upon arrival at Incheon International Airport, all participants will be greeted and guided to the Plaza Seoul Hotel. If any delegation would like to arrange transportation on its own, i.e. through its Embassy, please inform the host in advance by indicating so in the registration form.

The transportation to and from the airport will be provided only during the Special Conference.

Weather

The average temperature of Seoul in September is forecasted to be between 17°C (62.6°F) and 26°C (78.8°F). The relative humidity is approximately 69.2%, with an average of 7 days of rain. Umbrellas or waterproof jackets are recommended.

Electricity

The standard voltage is 220 V at 50 Hz. The power plugs and sockets are of type C, F, and E. Participants are advised to bring appropriate plug adapters, if necessary.

Contact Point Person

Each delegation will have one dedicated volunteer that will assist throughout the stay, from meeting at the airport to booking appointments for COVID-19 testing, etc. For this purpose, please share your phone numbers so that the volunteers can get in touch with you.

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Brief Introduction of the ICAPP

The International Conference of Asian Political Parties (ICAPP) was launched in Manila, Philippines in September 2000 to promote exchanges and cooperation among political parties with various ideologies in Asia and Oceania.

The ICAPP seeks to enhance mutual understanding and deepen trust in the region and in doing so, promote peace and prosperity through the unique role and channel of political parties.

At first, few people thought it would be possible to bring together competing governing, opposition and independent political parties of Northeast Asia, Southeast Asia, Central Asia, West Asia, the Middle East, and Oceania. However, since its inception, the ICAPP has grown steadily in both membership and influence.

Now more than 350 political parties in the region with diverse political and ideological backgrounds are eligible to participate in the ICAPP activities. By bringing together leaders of political parties in Asia at regular assemblies, the ICAPP has become a positive force for mutual understanding among Asian countries and peoples. The ICAPP meetings have been visionary, cordial, constructive and successful.

The ICAPP has also become institutionalized through wide-ranging programs and a sophisticated structure. The General Assembly, which welcomes all eligible political parties across Asia and Oceania, is held biannually. The Standing Committee, which is composed of political party representatives from 23 countries, meets semi-annually to address general matters of the ICAPP. Special Conferences are held on timely topics upon recommendations from the Standing Committee, and small-scale workshops are also held targeting specific audiences and topics. Themes of previous Special Conferences and workshops include, among others, prevention of political corruption, green development, migration and refugees and promotion of business opportunities, among others. The ICAPP Youth Wing and Women's Wing have also been established and their annual meetings focus on issues related to education, employment, human rights, and equal opportunities. Other subsidiary bodies, such as ICAPP Media Forum, ICAPP Tourism Promotion and Inter-City Cooperation Council (TOPIC), ICAPP Business Council (IBC), and Asian Cultural Council (ACC) have also been set up under the Standing Committee and hold their meetings on a regular basis.

The ICAPP has also established channels of dialogue with political parties in Africa, Europe, and the Americas. This is manifested through the partnership among the ICAPP, the Permanent Conference of Political Parties in Latin America and the Caribbean (*COPPPAL*), and the Council of African Political Parties (CAPP). The CAPP is the product of coordinated efforts by the ICAPP and *COPPPAL* to help political parties in Africa establish a forum. The ICAPP and *COPPPAL* have been holding joint sessions annually since 2009 and the trilateral meetings among the Members of ICAPP Standing Committee, *COPPPAL* Coordinating Body and CAPP Executive Committee have been held since 2016. At the 3rd Trilateral Meeting among the ICAPP-*COPPPAL*-CAPP, which was held in Moscow, Russia in 2018, the three organizations agreed to designate the ICAPP Secretariat as the Common Secretariat to further joint cooperation in the future.

The Asia-Europe Political Forum (AEPF), which is regularly co-organized by the ICAPP and the political party groups represented in the European Parliament is also a product of such intercontinental cooperation. The first meeting of the AEPF was held in Seoul, Korea in 2017 after discussions between the ICAPP and political party groups of the European Parliament to enhance mutual understanding and cooperation between Asia and Europe. The second AEPF meeting was held in London, United Kingdom in 2018, the third meeting in Colombo, Sri Lanka in 2019, and the fourth meeting in Prague, Czech Republic in July 2022 under the auspice of European Conservatives and Reformists Group (ECR).

In recognition of the ICAPP's role in bringing together various political parties to promote understanding and friendship among countries not only in Asia, but also in Africa, Europe and Latin America, a number of governments in the region, including those of Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Cambodia, China, Iran, Kazakhstan, the Republic of Korea, Mongolia, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Vietnam, have signed the inter-governmental "MOU on Cooperation to Support the Activities of the ICAPP" in 2013. More governments are encouraged to join in signing the MOU.

The ICAPP strives to achieve the UN Sustainable Development Goals by raising awareness on key issues and fostering dialogue on the design and implementation of policies that can bring positive change. In 2018, the UNESCO acknowledged the ICAPP as an international organization of political parties of independent states and signed the "Cooperation Agreement between the UNESCO and the ICAPP." The ICAPP will continue to play its role not only in building a cohesive community in Asia, but also in contributing to the global quest for peace and prosperity.

The 5th General Assembly held in 2009 decided to establish the ICAPP Secretariat in Seoul, Republic of Korea. Thanks to the support of many governments in the region, the Secretariat has been able to develop and expand the scope of the ICAPP activities.

The ICAPP Secretariat can be reached by email at secretariat@theicapp.org. More detailed information on the ICAPP and its activities can be found on its website at www.theicapp.org.