Appendix VI:

Kuala Lumpur Declaration on Natural Disasters and Environmental Protection

We, the leaders and representatives of 40 governing and opposition political parties from 24 countries in Asia, together with observers representing political parties in Latin America and the Caribbean and international organization, gathered at the ICAPP (International Conference of Asian Political Parties) Conference on Natural Disasters and Environmental Protection held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia under the auspices of the United Malays National Organization from May 6 to 7, 2011.

Sharing the sorrows and sufferings of the Japanese people in the aftermath of the earthquake and tsunami, ICAPP expresses its full support, solidarity and empathy with the people, the political parties and the government of Japan for the tragedy that caused a loss of nearly 28,000 lives.

Ever since the launching of the ICAPP Medical Emergency Forum (IMEF), in June 2010, in Langkawi, Malaysia, the issue of climate change has assumed crisis proportions in Asia. The devastating floods in Pakistan, forest fires in Russia, flash floods in Korea, Bangladesh and China, typhoons in the Philippines, earthquakes in India and landslides in Nepal, and the recent tsunami in Japan cumulatively caused a serious threat to the way of life of the peoples living not only in Asia, but beyond. IMEF's formation as a humanitarian wing of the ICAPP is therefore timely and since its formation a year ago, IMEF has been extremely active in providing support and generous assistance to several countries in the region including Pakistan, Cambodia, Indonesia, Japan, and Myanmar. The decision to institutionalize IMEF by establishing a permanent secretariat at Kuala Lumpur will provide for a readily available, rapid corps of professionals and personnel to respond to tragedies whenever and wherever these may occur.

Since humanity has no borders, IMEF's role will not be confined to Asia alone, but it will be ready, willing and able to respond to natural disasters and for the protection of the environment, ecology, and eco-safety in other parts of the world as well. We also believe, and this has been demonstrated by recent events, that the Asian spirit of resilience and resurgence resonates during calamity and crises, when people turn their grief into strength and overcome difficulties to move on to build a better future.

In order to preserve and protect the environment and to promote the cause of climate change, we also propose that the leaders and representatives of political parties gathered here together push for legislation that strengthens our common objectives. In this regard, the Climate Change Act, proposed jointly by ICAPP and IESCO, can serve as a good basis of a model law for optional passage by parliaments belonging to ICAPP member states, provisions that are relevant to specific countries.

We, therefore, appeal to all political parties, governments, parliaments, civil society organizations and the international community to strengthen their disaster reduction activities such as speedy and correct information exchange in a more concerted and coordinated manner by implementing relevant international commitments and frameworks, including the U.N. Millennium Declaration adopted in September 2000 and the Resolutions adopted by the World Conference on Disaster Reduction held in January 2005.

We also propose that a meeting of IMEF become a regular feature of the ICAPP General Assembly, meeting on the sideline to ensure that this issue is discussed at regular intervals. And we also propose that IMEF coordinate with other international organizations, including NGOs and humanitarian bodies, as well as the IESCO, as ICAPP affiliate which has founded the SOS Emergency Aid Center of Asia Pacific based in Hongkong, as well as those functioning under the United Nations system. ICAPP acknowledge the importance and effectiveness of IT in combating natural and man-made disasters, both in prevention and management of emergency situations.

Finally, we express our most sincere gratitude to the leaders of the United Malays National Organization (UMNO) especially the moving spirit behind the IMEF, the Honourable Dato' Seri Shahidan bin Kassim, and the Government of Malaysia for hosting this historic conference.

Adopted in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia on May 6, 2011