Draft Annotated Agenda
for the 41st Meeting of the ICAPP Standing Committee
(Bangkok, Thailand, May 28, 2024)

As of May 8, 2024

I. Issues Relating to the ICAPP Standing Committee (SC)

41st Meeting of the SC

As was informed by the ICAPP Update 24-20 of April 4, 2024, it was agreed that the 41st Meeting of the ICAPP Standing Committee (hereinafter referred to as "the SC") of the International Conference of Asian Political Parties (hereinafter referred to as "the ICAPP") will be hosted by H.E. Pichet Chuamuangphan, Deputy Speaker of Parliament of Thailand, and sponsored by the Honorary Consuls Association of Thailand, which is represented by its Chairman, Hon. Chumpol Phornprapha.

New Members of the SC

As was informed by the ICAPP Update 24-15 of February 29, 2024, the Cambodian People's Party (CPP) nominated Hon. Suos Yara, First Vice Chairman of the Commission on External Relations of the CPP, Director-General of Asian Cultural Council, Chairman of the Commission on Foreign Affairs, International Cooperation and Media and Information of the National Assembly of the Kingdom of Cambodia, replacing Hon. Khuon Sudary, President of the National Assembly, as the Member and Vice Chairperson of the ICAPP SC.

The updated list of SC Members is attached as ***Appendix I.***

42nd Meeting of the SC

At the 38th SC Meeting held in Istanbul on November 17, 2022, the Cambodian People's Party (CPP) offered to host the 12th ICAPP General Assembly (GA) in Phnom Penh, Cambodia in November 2024, and hold the 42nd SC Meeting on the sideline of the GA. In this regard, as was informed by the ICAPP Update 24-19 of March 26, 2014, the CPP proposed to hold the 12th GA from Thursday, November 21 to Sunday, November 24, 2024, and hold the 42nd SC Meeting in the evening of November 21, following the tradition of the ICAPP.

Future Meetings of the SC

According to Paragraph 2 of Article 10 of the ICAPP Charter, "the SC meeting shall be held at least once a year, including its meetings during the GA." It has also been the ICAPP tradition to hold two meetings of the SC in a year since the 4th SC Meeting in 2005. In this regard, political parties represented in the SC are requested to offer to host the 43rd and 44th SC Meetings to be held during 2025.

Statement on the Situation in the Middle East

As was informed by ICAPP Update 23-64 of November 17, 2023, some SC Members requested to include a paragraph condemning the Israeli military actions in the Gaza Strip in the Seoul Statement to be adopted by the 6th Meeting of the ICAPP Media Forum which was held in Seoul on November 16h, 2023. In this regard, after consultation with SC Members, the following paragraph was included in the opening remarks made by Hon. Chung Eui-yong, Chairman of the Standing Committee, in consideration of the ICAPP's tradition of refraining from making official statements on any specific regional conflict. The statement by Chairman Chung was circulated among all political parties represented in the ICAPP and released to the press immediately afterwards.

"Before concluding, I'd like to take this opportunity to express our deepest concerns, on behalf of the ICAPP Standing Committee, about the rapidly deteriorating situation in the Middle East. We reiterate that no terrorist attack can be either justified or tolerated. But we also strongly oppose and condemn 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 and lay down a fair peace plan for a sustainable future in the region."

Statement on the Terrorist Attack in Moscow

As was informed by ICAPP Update 24-17 of March 25, 2024, the SC Members issued a statement on March 24, 2024 regarding the brutal terrorist attack against the innocent civilians at a concert hall in Moscow, Russia on March 22, 2024, The SC Members strongly condemned the entities and individuals that were involved in this heinous crime, and expressed solidarity with the families of the victims and the people of Russia.

The statement on the terrorist shooting in Moscow is attached as ***Appendix II.***

II. Review of the ICAPP activities since the 40th SC Meeting

6th Meeting of the ICAPP Media Forum in November 2023

The 6th Meeting of the ICAPP Media Forum was hosted by the ICAPP Secretariat in Seoul, Republic of Korea from November 17 to 19, 2023. The meeting was participated by representatives of 32 political parties and journalists of 23 countries. The meeting focused on the main theme of "Role of the Media in Building an Asian Community and Political Democratization." The meeting commenced with the opening remarks of Hon. Kang Hoon-sik, Co-Chairperson of the ICAPP Media Forum, Member of the National Assembly, Vice Chairperson of the ICAPP Parliamentarians' Union in the National Assembly, Republic of Korea. During the session, the revision of the Terms of Reference of the Media Forum was approved as proposed by the Secretariat. The new members of the Bureau of the ICAPP Media Forum were also elected. The Seoul Statement for the meeting was adopted at the closing session.

The program, list of participants, terms of reference, list of the new members of the Bureau of the ICAPP Media Forum, and the Seoul Statement are attached as ***Appendixes III-1, III-2, III-3, III-4, and III-5*** respectively.

ICAPP Special Workshop and Tour of Jeju Island in December 2023

The ICAPP Secretariat hosted the ICAPP Special Workshop in *Jeju* Island, Republic of Korea during December 8-10, 2023, for the Ambassadors accredited to the Republic of Korea from three countries represented in the SC and the working-level officials from nine political parties represented in the SC. During the workshop, Hon. Kwon Hee-seog, Secretary General of the ICAPP Secretariat, made a presentation on the overview of current activities and future programs of the ICAPP. All participants exchanged their views on the role of the ICAPP in building an Asian community and the challenges and opportunities facing the ICAPP.

In this regard, three similar workshops for ambassadors accredited to the Republic of Korea and working-level officials of political parties from the countries represented in the SC had been hosted by the ICAPP Secretariat since 2015, and the ICAPP Secretariat intends to continue this program

The program, list of participants, and the report are attached as ***Appendixes IV-1, IV-2, and IV-3.***

ICAPP Mission to Presidential Election in Azerbaijan in February 2024

An ICAPP Mission was dispatched to Baku, Azerbaijan during February 6-9, 2024, at the invitation of the *Milli Majlis* (National Assembly) of the Republic of Azerbaijan, to observe the presidential election held on February 7, 2024. The ICAPP Mission was composed of representatives of three political parties from three countries in the region, i.e. Bangladesh, Cambodia, and Türkiye, and led by Hon. Afif Demirkiran, Deputy Chairperson of the Foreign Affairs Department of the *AK* Party of Türkiye.

On election day, the ICAPP delegation visited seven polling stations in different locations and observed the election process as the Precinct Election Commission (PEC) staff were carrying out their task with the assistance of volunteers. The ICAPP mission was also invited to witness the vote counting process immediately after the conclusion of voting. The mission issued the statement on the result of their observations of the elections on February 8, 2024.

The program, list of participants and, statement of the ICAPP electoral observer mission to Azerbaijan are attached as ***Appendixes V-1, V-2, and V-3.***

7th Meeting of the ICAPP Youth Wing

The 7th Meeting of the ICAPP Youth Wing was hosted by the Mongolian People's Party (MPP) in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia during February 23-26, 2024, under the main theme of "We Say 'Yes' to Youth in Parliament." The meeting was participated by political leaders and youth representatives of 18 political parties from 12 countries in the region. The meeting started with the welcoming remarks by H.E. Zandanshatar Gombojav, Chairman of the State Great *Hural* (Parliament of Mongolia) and Member of the Executive Board of the MPP.

The new members of the new Bureau of the ICAPP Youth Wing were elected, including Hon. Uchral Nyam-Osor, Minister of Digital Development and Communications of Mongolia, as Chairperson of the ICAPP Youth Wing. The meeting was divided into two plenary sessions. The 2nd plenary session was divided into two panels, with each panel consisted of six representatives from the participants. The Ulaanbaatar Statement for the meeting was adopted at the closing session

The program, list of participants, list of the new bureau of ICAPP Youth Wing, and the Ulaanbaatar Statement are attached as ***Appendixes VI-1, VI-2, VI-3, and VI-4.***

ICAPP Mission to the European Parliament

As was informed by ICAPP Update 24-18 of April 4, 2024, an ICAPP mission visited the European Parliament (EP) in Strasbourg, France during March 12-14, 2024 to meet with the representatives of the political party groups in the EP to further promote cooperation between the ICAPP and the political party groups in the EP. The mission was consisted of Hon Chung Eui-yong, Chairman, Hon. Mushahid Hussain Sayed, Co-Chairman, and Hon. Sous Yara, Vice Chairman of the ICAPP SC, and Hon. Kwon Hee-seog, Secretary General of the ICAPP.

During the visit, the members of the ICAPP mission were invited to attend a regular meeting of the ECR (European Conservatives and Reformists) Group which was held in the evening of March 12 in a conference hall in the EP. The event was attended by about 40 members of the ECR Group, including Hon. Nicola Procaccini, Co-Chair, Hon. Jan Zahradil, Vice Chair, and Hon. Gabriel Beszlej, Secretary General of the ECR Group. Hon. Chung Eui-yong, Chairman of the ICAPP SC, made a PPT presentation on the ICAPP's history and activities.

The members of the mission had six meetings with representatives of four largest political party groups in the EP, i.e. the European People's Party (EPP) Group, Alliance of Socialists and Democrats (S&D), Renew Europe Group and the ECR Group on March 13. At the meetings, the representatives of political party groups in the EP all welcomed the visit by the ICAPP mission to the EP, and appreciated the ICAPP's initiative to hold regular meetings with political party groups in the EP. They also agreed to more proactively participate in the future meetings of Asia Europe Political Forum (AEPF) and to hold the 6th Meeting of Asia-Europe Political Forum (AEPF) during late 2024 or early 2025 in Europe. It was also agreed to continue close coordination to decide on the time and venue of the 6th AEPF after the formation of the new EP following its elections in mid-June 2024.

The program, list of participants, and PPT presentation on the ICAPP are attached as ***Appendixes VII-1, VII-2, and VII-3.***

Conclusion of MOU on exchange of observers between the ICAPP and NAM PN

Hon. Chung Eui-yong, Chairperson of the ICAPP SC, held a meeting with Hon. Sahiba Gafarova, Speaker of the Parliament of Azerbaijan and Chairperson of the Non-Aligned Movement Parliamentary Network (NAM PN), on November 2, 2023, in Seoul, Republic of Korea, and they agreed to exchange observers to each other's general assemblies.

During the meeting, Hon. Sahiba Gafarova suggested that the ICAPP delegation attend future meetings of NAM PN as observers. Hon. Chung Eui-yong tentatively concurred to the proposal and made a counter-proposal to exchange observers to each other's meetings. Hon. Chung Eui-yong stated that he would bring this matter to the attention of the SC members for their approval.

As was informed by ICAPP Update 24-16 of March 5, 2024, after consultation with the SC members, Hon. Chung Eui-yong and Hon. Sahiba Gafarova signed and exchanged the

Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on the exchange of observers for their meetings on March 4, 2024.

The copy of the MOU is attached as ***Appendix VIII.***

ICAPP Observer Mission for the 3rd NAM PN Conference

In accordance with the MOU between the ICAPP and the NAM PN, the NAM PN invited observers from the ICAPP to participate in the 3rd Conference of the NAM PN held on March 25, 2024 in Geneva, Switzerland on the sidelines of the 148th Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU). The ICAPP representatives of 3 political parties from 3 countries participated in the conference, led by Hon. Rana Mohammad Sohail of the *Jatiyo* Party of Bangladesh.

The list of ICAPP observer mission and its report are attached as ***Appendixes IX-1 and IX-2.***

Proposal for the MOU on exchange of observers between the ICAPP and PABSEC

As was informed by ICAPP Update 24-23 of April 16, 2024, consultations on concluding a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on exchanges of observers between the Secretariats of the ICAPP and the Parliamentary Assembly of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (PABSEC) had been under way since late 2023. PABSEC is an organization of parliaments of 13 member states of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (BSEC).

After consultation with the SC Members, it was tentatively agreed that Hon. Kwon Hee-seog, Secretary General of the ICAPP, and Hon. Asaf Hajiyev, Secretary General of the PABSEC, will sign the MOU on the sideline of the 41st SC Meeting to be held in Bangkok on May 28th, 2024.

The copy of the MOU is attached as ***Appendix X***.

Publication of ICAPP NEWS

At the 6th Meeting of the ICAPP Media Forum held in Seoul on November 18, 2023, it was agreed to publish a quarterly newsletter, titled "ICAPP NEWS," which will include updates on ICAPP activities, special contributions on Asian Worldview and short uplifting news on Asian Century. The participants also agreed to establish an editorial board for the newsletter.

Accordingly, after consultation with the members of the editorial board, the Secretariat has published two volumes of ICAPP NEWS, Volume 1 covering the period from October to December, 2023, and Volume 2, covering the period from January to March, 2024, the copies of which are attached as ***Appendixes XI-1 and XI-2.***

III. ICAPP Work Programs for 2024

2nd Meeting of the ICAPP Business Council

At the 40th SC Meeting in Kathmandu, Nepal on October 13, 2023, SC Members suggested to host the 2nd Meeting of the ICAPP Business Council (IBC) back-to-back with the 41st SC Meeting to be held in Bangkok, Kingdom of Thailand, during the first half of 2024. In this regard, Hon. Dr. Nalinee Taveesin, Advisor to the Prime Minister and Trade Representative of Thailand, and Co-Chair of the IBC, later confirmed that the 2nd IBC Meeting will be held in Bangkok during May 27-30 in conjunction with "*THAIFEX - Anuga* Asia," which is one of the world's top three food exhibitions to be held in Bangkok from Tuesday, May 28 to Saturday, June 1, 2024. The Thai host also proposed "Tourism promotion and food security" as the main theme of the meeting.

It was also agreed that both events will be hosted by H.E. Pichet Chuamuangphan, Deputy Speaker of Parliament of Thailand, and sponsored by the Honorary Consuls Association of Thailand, which is represented by its Chairman, Hon. Chumpol Phornprapha.

The program and list of participants of the 2nd IBC meeting are attached as ***Appendixes XII-1 and XII-2.***

8th Meeting of the ICAPP Women's Wing

Hon. Chung Eui-yong, Chairperson of the ICAPP SC, held a meeting with Hon. Nomin Chinbat, Minister of Culture and Vice President of the Social Democratic Women of the Mongolian People's Party (MPP), and Chairperson of the ICAPP Women's Wing, in Seoul on January 23, 2024. During the meeting, they agreed to hold the 8th Meeting of the ICAPP Women's Wing in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia tentatively during the Mongolian Cultural Festival to be held in August 2024. The MPP later proposed to hold the meeting during August 21-23, 2024.

The more detailed information regarding the meeting will be provided in due course.

12th General Assembly (GA) of the ICAPP

At the 38th SC Meeting in Istanbul on November 17, 2022, the CPP confirmed its offer to host the 12th General Assembly (GA) in Phnom Penh, Cambodia in November 2024.

In this regard, Hon. Chung Eui-yong visited Phnom Penh, Cambodia, during December 12-16, 2023, and had meetings with leaders of the CPP, incuding H.E. Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo HUN SEN, President ofthe CPP, H.E. Samdech Moha Borvor Thipadei HUN MANET, Prime Minister, H.E. Samdech Moha Rathsapheathika Thipadei KHUON SUDARY**,**President of the National Assembly and Vice-Chairperson of the ICAPP SC, and Hon. Suos Yara, Director General of Asian Cultural Council (ACC), Vice-Chairman of the External Relations Commission ofthe CPP and Chairman of Foreign Affairs of the National Assembly of Cambodia.

During the meetings, the following understandings had been made regarding the 12th GA

- The 42nd SC Meeting, the 3rd Meeting of the Asian Cultural Council (ACC) of the ICAPP, and the 7th Meeting of the ICAPP Media Forum will be held on the sidelines of the 12th GA.
- H.E. Hun Sen, President of the CPP, will be nominated as Chairman Emeritus of the 12th GA and invited to deliver the keynote speech at the opening ceremony.

- H.E. Hun Manet, Prime Minister and Vice President of the CPP, will be nominated as the Chairman of the 12th GA, and four to six Vice Chairpersons will be nominated.
- All meetings of the 12th GA, including receptions and side events, will be held at the Headquarters of the CPP in Phnom Penh.
- Local accommodation will be provided for up to two representatives from each participating political party for up to three nights and four days. The host will also consider providing local accommodation to all foreign journalists, and providing one economy-class round-trip air ticket to one representative from one political party from LDCs in the region, i.e. Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Laos, Myanmar, Nepal, Timor-Este and Yemen.

As was informed by ICAPP Update 24-19 of March 25, 2024, the CPP proposed a tentative program for the 12th GA to be held from Thursday, November 21 to Sunday, November 24, 2024.

The Understanding between the ICAPP and the CPP on the Arrangements for the 12th GA and the tentative program are attached as ***Appendixes XIII-1 and XIII-2***.

6th Meeting of the Asia-Europe Political Forum

At the 5th Meeting of the Asia-Europe Political Forum (AEPF) on October 14, 2023, Hon. Jan Zahradil, Co-Chairperson of the AEPF, Member of the European Parliament (EP) representing the Czech Republic, and Bureau Member of the European Conservatives and Reformists Group (ECR) in the European Parliament, proposed to delay the 6th Meeting of the Asia-Europe Political Forum, which was scheduled to be held in April 2024 in Brussels, Belgium, to September 2024.

However, during the ICAPP Mission to Europe on March 12-14, most of the European representatives were of the view to hold the meeting in late 2024 or early 2025 for administrative and budgetary reasons. They stated that, since the new session of the new EP would start in September following the EP elections in June 2024, the newly formed political party groups in the EP would need more time for preparations.

In this regard, Hon. Jan Zahdaril informed the ICAPP Mission that the ECR had been continuing internal consultations on the venue and date, exploring a possibility of holding the next AEPF meeting in early 2025 in one of the capital cities in Europe, including Rome, Italy.

IV. Other Issues

Extension of the Cooperation Agreement between the ICAPP and the UNESCO

On December 4, 2018, the ICAPP concluded a Cooperation Agreement with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) to "update, consolidate and strengthen their cooperation in a program-oriented manner for the purpose of achieving their common aims within the context of the U.N. Charter, the Constitution of the UNESCO and the Charter of the ICAPP and Terms of Reference of its affiliated bodies, including the Asian Cultural Council (ACC)." The agreement was signed in Siem Reap, Cambodia by the Secretary General of the ICAPP Secretariat, the Director General of the UNESCO and the

Chairperson of the ACC.

In accordance with Article 6 of the Cooperation Agreement, the agreement will "remain effective for a period of five years from the date of signature," and "may be extended by the mutual written agreement of both Parties, in accordance with their respective rules, regulations, and procedures."

In this regard, as the end of the duration of the agreement approached, and as mandated by the SC Members after the circulation of ICAPP Update 23-52 of September 15, 2023, the Secretary General of the ICAPP and the Chairperson of the ACC have sent an official letter to the Director-General of the UNESCO on October 5, 2023, proposing to take necessary measures to extend the Cooperation Agreement for another period of five years in accordance with Article 6 of the Agreement. The ICAPP Secretariat is still waiting for the official response from the UNESCO.
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The Letter to the Director-General of the UNESCO is attached as ***Appendix XIV.***

Expansion of participation in the Inter-governmental MOU to support ICAPP activities signed in July 2013

On July 26, 2013, the inter-governmental "MOU on Cooperation to Support the Activities of the ICAPP" was signed among the government representatives of like-minded countries at a ceremony held at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Seoul, Republic of Korea. The signatories are requested to "agree to provide appropriate support that is available and possible within their capacity for the activities and programs of the ICAPP," as stipulated in Paragraph 1. The MOU was also "not intended to create any legally binding obligations," as stipulated in Paragraph 2.

So far, the governments of eleven countries, i.e. Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Cambodia, China, Iran, Kazakhstan, Republic of Korea, Mongolia, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Vietnam,. have participated in the MOU by signing the document.

The ICAPP Secretariat is designated as the Depository for the MOU by Paragraph 5 of the MOU, and any government that wishes to participate in the MOU can notify the ICAPP Secretariat, in writing, of its intention, which will be immediately informed to other participants.

In this regard, at the 19th SC Meeting held in Hanoi in April 2013, SC Members endorsed the initiative and agreed to recommend to their respective governments to sign the MOU.

The coy of the inter-governmental MOU is attached as ***Appendix XV.***

Amendment of the ICAPP Charter to increase the number of countries represented in the SC

The 6th GA held in Colombo in September 2014 approved the amendment of Paragraph 1 of Article 9 of the ICAPP Charter to increase the number of countries to be represented in the SC to 23 countries in the region, as recommended by the 23rd SC Meeting held in Colombo on September 18, 2014. The paragraph now reads as "A Standing Committee, composed of

the representatives of political parties of not exceeding twenty-three (23) countries in the region, shall be established."

In this regard, political parties of several countries in the region, which are not represented in the SC, have expressed their interest in participating in the SC as new members. SC Members are invited to consider, and exchange views on, this proposal with a view to possible amendment of the relevant article in the Charter at the 12th GA in November.

Cooperation with COPPPAL and CAPP

The meetings between the ICAPP and *COPPPAL*, Conference of Political Parties in Latin America and the Caribbean, have been held at the Standing Committee level in Buenos Aires in 2009, Phnom Penh in 2010, Mexico City in 2012, Baku in 2013, Mexico City in 2014. Following these meetings, the bilateral cooperation between the ICAPP and *COPPPAL* has developed and expanded into a trilateral meeting involving CAPP, Council of African Political Parties, since 2016. The Secretariats of ICAPP-COPPPAL-CAPP had collaborated to hold threetrilateral meetings thus far at the Standing Committee level, in Jakarta (2016), in Tegucigalpa (2017), and in Moscow (2018).

Since the CAPP Secretariat based in Khartoum, Sudan, had become incapable of functioning properly due to the continuous political turmoil in the country, it now appears to be difficult that the CAPP continues trilateral cooperation.

Under the circumstances, the ICAPP Secretariat will continue its bilateral collaboration with the *COPPPAL* Secretariat to resume the regular ICAPP-*COPPPAL* meetings at the Standing Committee level, and also reach out to individual political parties in Africa to explore ways of further promoting cooperation among political parties in Asia and Africa, with the cooperation of political parties represented in the SC.

Other Issues

The SC Members may raise any other issue of their interest under this item.

Appendixes:

- ***I. Updated List of the ICAPP SC***
- ***II. Statement on the Terrorist Shooting in Moscow***
- ***III. 6th Meeting of the ICAPP Media Forum***
  1. *Program*
  2. *List of Participants*
  3. *Terms of Reference*
  4. *List of the New Bureau*
  5. *Seoul Statement*
- ***IV. ICAPP Special Workshop and Tour of Jeju Island***
  1. *Program*
  2. *List of Participants*
  3. *Report*

V. Report of the ICAPP Electoral Observer Mission to Azerbaijan

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

VI. 7th Meeting of the ICAPP Youth Wing

1. *Program*
2. *List of Participants*
3. *List of the New Bureau*
4. *Ulaanbaatar Statement*

VII. ICAPP Mission to the European Parliament

1. *Program*
2. *List of Participants*
3. *PPT Presentation*

VIII. Copy of the MOU between the ICAPP and NAM PN

IX. ICAPP Observer Mission for the 3rd NAM PN Conference

1. *List of Participants*
2. *Report*

X. Proposed MOU between the ICAPP and PABSEC

XI. Publication of ICAPP NEWS

1. *Volume 1*
2. *Volume 2*

XII. 2nd Meeting of the ICAPP Business Council

1. *Program*
2. *List of Participants*

XIII. 12th General Assemblies of the ICAPP

1. *Understanding between the ICAPP and the CPP on the Arrangements for the 12th GA of the ICAPP*
2. *Tentative Program*

XIV. The Letter to the Director-General of the UNESCO

XV. Inter-governmental MOU to Support ICAPP Activities