

**Kuala Lumpur Statement on Cooperation to Promote One Asia
(Kuala Lumpur, September 2, 2016)**

We, the journalists from Cambodia, Republic of Korea, Malaysia, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Thailand, and Turkey, countries which are represented in the Standing Committee of the International Conference of Asian Political Parties (ICAPP), gathered in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia on September 2, 2016, together with representatives of political parties from Azerbaijan, Cambodia, India, Iran, Indonesia, Republic of Korea, Laos, Malaysia, Mongolia, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand, and Turkey, and held the 2nd Meeting of the ICAPP Media Forum on the sidelines of the 9th General Assembly of the ICAPP.

The meeting was conducted under the theme of “Cooperation to Promote One Asia,” with special focus on the role of political parties and the media in building an Asian community, enhancing democratic values and dealing with such challenges as terrorism, poverty and environmental degradation, and how to promote communication, interaction and cooperation between political parties and the media in the region.

First of all, we confirmed our commitment to support ICAPP activities to enhance mutual trust and promote understanding and friendship among Asian countries and create an environment for peace, stability and prosperity in the region. In this regard, we shared the view that the ICAPP activities should be more focused on urgent issues of direct relevance to the daily lives of the peoples in the region.

We also confirmed that enhancement of democratic values and institutions in our societies is not only the main function of political parties and the media but also a way forward to achieve an Asian community or “One Asia,” and stressed the need for cooperation between political parties and the media to consolidate democracy in the region by promoting justice and good governance, expanding cross-border exchanges, overcoming prejudice against each other and raising public awareness on common challenges faced by the region.

We shared the view that terrorism and growing gap of wealth among countries are most serious challenges that destabilize our region and counter our goal of building an Asian community, and agreed to concentrate our joint efforts in fighting these challenges. In particular, we agreed that we should prioritize combating terrorism than other challenges and unite our efforts to prevent terrorist activities and eliminate root causes of terrorism.

We also identified abject poverty passed down from generation to generation and environmental degradation caused by climate change as main threats to sustainable development in the region which should be continuously and urgently addressed by political parties and the media.

In this regard, we fully supported the draft “Kuala Lumpur Declaration,” which is to be adopted by the 9th General Assembly of the ICAPP on September 3, 2016, and expressed our hope that visions and commitments laid out in the declaration will be duly and successfully brought into reality with cooperation of all political parties in the region.

Finally, we confirmed that the role of the ICAPP Media Forum is to help promote communication, interaction and cooperation between political parties and the media in the

region, and agreed to encourage more active monitoring and coverage of ICAPP activities by the media.

In this regard, we agreed that more representatives of the media should be invited to monitor future activities of the ICAPP. We also agreed to hold the 3rd Meeting of the ICAPP Media Forum in 2017, and continue our efforts to further engage ourselves to find ways to promote communication and strengthen cooperation to achieve our goal of building an Asian community with common interest, common destiny and common responsibilities.

We expressed our deepest gratitude to the United Malays National Organization (UMNO), the governing coalition of Malaysia, for the excellent preparations for our meeting and warm hospitality during our stay. We also noted with great appreciation the administrative support of the ICAPP Secretariat in organizing the meeting.

Adopted in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia on September 2nd, 2016