



SENATE OF PAKISTAN
PAKISTAN WORLDVIEW

Report - 19

SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE

Towards an Asian Century

Preparatory Meeting for the 5th General Assembly of the
International Conference of Asian Political Parties



July, 2008

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

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From the Chairman's Desk

The Senate Foreign Relations Committee has been regularly issuing reports on its activities, since July, 2004. So far it has published 18 reports, containing details of the interaction of the Committee with its counterparts in different countries, both inviting them and also visiting them. These reports are a treasure-trove for anyone interested in Pakistan's foreign relations and its perspective on regional and global issues. These reports, during last four years, have gained a degree of credibility as a useful document of parliamentary exchanges in the realms of diplomacy.

The current Report, however, is different. Instead of a record of bilateral visits and meetings it is a record of the 9th meeting of the Standing Committee of the International Conference of Asian Political Parties (ICAPP), held in Islamabad during March 28-30, 2008.

The Report is not only a compendium of the Islamabad meeting, but also a useful document giving detailed information on the ICAPP, its genesis, Charter, membership and a brief description of previous meetings and the success it achieved.

The ICAPP is relatively a young organization and unique in character. It is an association of over 100 political parties from 45 countries of Asia. Some useful appendices and annexures have been included in this Report, giving a comprehensive account of the ICAPP. It includes parties with different ideologies belonging both to the government and the opposition.

The International Conference of Asian Political Parties (ICAPP) held its first meeting in Manila in 2000, where Pakistan was represented by late Prime Minister, Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto. Then the ICAPP convened in Bangkok in 2002, in 2004 in Beijing and in 2006 in Seoul. After that, a number of countries put forward their candidature for the 2008 General Assembly, which will have representation from all of Asia, and Pakistan was awarded the honour and privilege of hosting this Conference. The 5th General Assembly of ICAPP will be held in Islamabad, *Insha-Allah*, during October 24-26, 2008. The meeting of the Standing Committee held in March was to prepare for that momentous meeting, whose theme is 'Towards an Asian Century'.

I am confident that this report will be received, as the previous ones, with interest.

I take this opportunity to place on record my thanks to the Committee staff for preparation of this report and the HSF for its publication.



Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed



Meeting of the Standing Committee
of the International Conference of
Asian Political Parties (ICAPP)

(Islamabad, Pakistan, March 28-30, 2008)



Meeting of the Standing Committee of the International Conference of Asian Political Parties (ICAPP)

Islamabad, Pakistan, March 28-30, 2008

The 9th Meeting of the Standing Committee (hereinafter referred to as “the Meeting”) of the International Conference of Asian Political Parties (hereinafter referred to as “the ICAPP”) was held at Serena Hotel in Islamabad, Islamic Republic of Pakistan, during March 28-29, 2008.

The Meeting was presided over by the Co-Chairmen of the Standing Committee, H.E. Jose de Venecia, President Emeritus of the LAKAS-CMD Party of the Republic of the Philippines and Hon. Chung Eui-yong, Chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee of the United Democratic Party of the Republic of Korea, and attended in total by 12 members of the Standing Committee (hereinafter referred to as “the Members”). The list of participants and the program of the Meeting are attached as *Appendix - I* and *Appendix - II* respectively.

During the Meeting, the Members discussed a wide range of issues pertaining to the following topics: (1) significance of the Meeting and political developments in the region; (2) preparations for the 5th General Assembly of the ICAPP (hereinafter referred to as “the GA”), including current state of preparations, main theme and sub-themes, thematic meetings and elements to be included in the Islamabad Declaration, and political parties eligible for participation in the GA; (3) issues related to the Standing Committee, including new memberships, time and venue of next SC meetings, and a possibility of holding a joint session with the Executive Committee (EC) of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly (APA); (4) priority projects relevant to the ICAPP objectives; (5) amendments of the ICAPP Charter; and (6) other related issues. The annotated agenda of the Meeting which had been prepared by the





Co-Chairmen and circulated among the Members prior to the Meeting is attached as *Appendix - III*.

Strong support for the new government in Pakistan:

At the beginning of the Meeting, the Co-Chairmen and the Members recognized with great admiration the results of the general elections in Pakistan on February 18, 2008 and welcomed the courageous decision taken by the three mainstream political parties in Pakistan, i.e. Pakistan Muslim League (PML), Pakistan Peoples Party Parliamentarians (PPP) and Pakistan Muslim League-N (PML-N) to co-host the 9th SC meeting and the 5th GA of the ICAPP. In particular, Co-Chairman Jose de Venecia mentioned that both developments well confirm our belief in pluralism and harmonization of ideologies as essential components for strong and sustainable democracy. The Members also expressed special appreciation to Hon. Mushahid Hussain

Sayed, Secretary-General of the PML and Chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, for his dedication and commitments to the success of the 9th SC meeting and the 5th GA.

In addition, the Members noted that the vote of confidence for the new Prime Minister of Pakistan was to be conducted on March 29, the same day of their Meeting, and unanimously agreed to extend their strong support to the new Prime Minister and the government of Pakistan. Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed expressed his appreciation to the Members on behalf of the new Pakistani Parliament for their unanimous support and mentioned that such strong endorsement by the SC of the ICAPP is a very encouraging message to the government and the people of Pakistan. Senator Sayed further said that the Meeting was being held at a very significant moment, during the democratic transition in Pakistan

after the most fair and transparent elections conducted in the history of Pakistan. He particularly emphasized that, for the first time, all political parties, both ruling and opposition, had simultaneously accepted the official results of the general elections. He also welcomed the Members to Islamabad on behalf of the Pakistani hosts and reiterated their commitments to further promoting ICAPP objectives.

New Members and replacements of Members of the SC:

As the first business of the Meeting, the Members accepted by consensus representatives of the United Russia Party of the Russian Federation and the Justice and Development Party (AKP) of Turkey as new members of the SC, as had been agreed at the 7th SC meeting. In this regard, they welcomed the participation in the Meeting by Hon. Konstantin Kosachev, Deputy Secretary for International Policy and Interparty Relations, Presidium of the General Council, United Russia Party, and Hon. A. Emin Önen, Member of Parliament who participated on behalf of Hon. Egemen Bagis, Vice Chairman in charge of Foreign Affairs, Justice and Development Party of Turkey. The Members also noted that the SC has become more regionally balanced and inclusive by their participation.

The Meeting endorsed the application from the People's Power Party (PPP) of Thailand, which had emerged as the governing party in the country after recently held general elections, for the membership in the SC, replacing the Thai Rak Thai Party which had been dissolved. The application letter from Hon. Dr. Surapong Suebwonglee, Secretary General of the People's Power Party of Thailand, dated March 21, 2008, is attached as *Appendix-IV*.

The Meeting also noted new nominations for representatives in the SC from two political parties. First, Hon. Azat T. Peruash, now Chairman of the Atameken Union and Member

of the Political Bureau, was replaced by Hon. Adilbek R. Jaxybekov, First Deputy Chairman, to represent People's Democratic Party "Nur Otan" of Kazakhstan. Second, Hon. Hiroshi Takano, former Chairman of the International Affairs Committee, was replaced by Hon. Kazuyoshi Akaba, new Chairman of the International Affairs Committee, to represent the New Komei Party of Japan. The Members expressed their appreciation to the two outgoing members of the SC for their contributions to promoting ICAPP objectives.

Support for successful Olympic Games in Beijing:

The Members of the SC expressed their strong support for, and confidence in, the success of the Olympic Games to be held in Beijing, China this August. They agreed that the Beijing Olympic Games will be a great event not only for the people of Asia, but also for the people of the whole world. They further agreed to exert whatever support they can render to ensure the success of the Games.

Political situation in the region and new challenges for the ICAPP:

Some Members briefly commented, in their opening statements, on the political and economic developments in their respective countries, emphasizing the need for political solidarity among political parties to secure sustainable democracy throughout the region and the need for collective efforts to deal with new challenges faced by developing countries in particular, recently soaring prices of food and fuel, among others. In this regard, the Members once again agreed to continue their efforts to develop the ICAPP into a more institutionalized organization with clearly focused mandate to more effectively cope with the newly arising challenges and take more concrete actions in concerted manner.

The Members took note that the general elections are due on April 9 and April 10 this year respectively in the Republic of Korea and



Nepal and expressed their hope that the results of the elections will contribute to further strengthening democracy in the two countries. In particular, they demonstrated their solidarity with the people of Nepal in their efforts to form a democratically elected Constitutional Assembly. They also hoped that democratic institution will be restored in Bangladesh in a near future as agreed upon among political leaders in the country.

Preparations for the 5th General Assembly of the ICAPP:

■ *Dates and Venue:*

Hon. Mushahid Hussain Sayed of Pakistan Muslim League made a general report on the current state of preparations for the 5th GA. He once again confirmed that the three mainstream political parties in Pakistan, i.e. PML, PPP and PML-N, will co-host the 5th GA and the institutional and logistic support will be provided by both the Senate and the government of the

Islamic Republic of Pakistan. He further reported that, after close consultations among the three co-hosting parties, it was decided to hold the 5th GA meetings from Friday, October 24 to Sunday, October 26, 2008 at the National Convention Center in Islamabad, Pakistan.

The Members highly commended the decision by the three parties in Pakistan to co-host the event, noting that a tradition of co-hosting the GA between the governing and opposition parties is being established since the 4th GA in Seoul, and endorsed the dates and venue as suggested by the Pakistani co-hosts.

■ *Main Theme and Sub-themes:*

The Members agreed to the proposal by Pakistan and adopted "Towards an Asian Century" as the main theme for the 5th GA and "(1) regionalism driven by energy and economy, (2) promoting reconciliation and rapprochement, and (3) combating radicalism" as sub-themes. In this regard, they noted the earlier statement



Proposed by Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed from Pakistan Muslim League, the Committee adopted "Towards an Asian Century" as the main theme of the 5th GA of ICAPP to be held in Pakistan this year.

made by Co-Chairman Jose de Venecia that “the center of global gravity is tilting from the West to the East.” They further noted the phenomenal political and economic resurgence of Asia through progress in political process that is more inclusive and democratic, and through advances in science, technology, and education.

In addition to the three sub-themes, the following topics were suggested for other special programs during the GA:

- role of young political leaders.
- role of women and other minorities.
- foreign policy initiatives.
- education.
- environment.
- transparent elections and sustainable democracy, etc.

However, in view of the need to attract broader and more interactive participation by delegates, and also in consideration of the difficulties faced by smaller delegations, the Members agreed to continue its discussions on how to effectively structure the GA meetings, including thematic meetings and other special programs aside from the plenary session.

■ *Drafting the Islamabad Declaration:*
The Members agreed that the proposals submitted by Pakistan to the 8th SC meeting can be a good basis for drafting the Islamabad Declaration which will be adopted at the end of the 5th GA. It was further agreed that the Organizing Committee of the 5th GA to be set up among the representatives of the three co-hosting parties in Pakistan will prepare a draft in cooperation with the ICAPP Secretariat and circulate among the Members prior to the convening of the 5th GA.

In this regard, the Members were requested to more actively engage in the drafting process and submit their suggestions in writing to either the Secretariat or the Organizing Committee.

The final draft will be submitted to the SC meeting to be held on the eve of the 5th GA.

■ *Political parties eligible for participation in the General Assembly:*

The Secretariat had identified 240 political parties existing in 45 countries and one territory in the region as of March 25, 2008 (see *Annexure-1*) which meet the criteria for eligibility to be invited to the 5th GA which was agreed upon at the 8th SC meeting held in Tehran in November 2007. The Meeting also noted the need to keep updating the list until the last possible moment to reflect the results of the general elections to take place in some countries prior to the 5th GA.

It was agreed to send formal invitations initially to the 240 political parties, which will be jointly signed by the Co-Chairmen of the SC and the Chairman of the Organizing Committee of the 5th GA. Additional invitations will be sent to the political parties which will become eligible to participate in the ICAPP activities, pending the results of future general elections, in accordance with the above criteria. The Members also acknowledged that, notwithstanding the criteria, all the future ICAPP activities will be open to any political party in Asia with democratically elected members in their respective national parliaments in accordance with Article 2 of the ICAPP Charter.

Joint Session with the Executive Committee (EC) of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly (APA):

The Meeting considered the issue of holding a joint session between the SC and the EC of the APA to form partnership, synergy and cooperation for Asian integration. It was the general view among the Members, however, that, while they recognize the need for close coordination between the two organizations, a more realistic and gradual approach is desirable in consideration of the different composition of member entities and countries in the two organizations.



Members of the Standing Committee of ICAPP who attended the 9th meeting.

The Members agreed to continue to explore ways to promote cooperation and coordination between the ICAPP and the APA, including the possibility of holding a joint session and other ways of exchanges, such as inviting the members of the EC of the APA to the SC meetings or vice versa.

Priority projects relevant to the ICAPP Objectives:

The Members continued to further identify potential priority projects for the ICAPP and streamlined them as follows, as of now:

- initiatives for inter-faith and inter-cultural dialogues;
- fight against poverty, including the creation of micro-financing and 'debt for equity' initiative;
- eco-economy and energy efficiency,
- participation of women in political activities,
- combating new challenges and threats in the region;
- creation of youth federation within the ICAPP; and
- state subsidies for mainstream political parties as a means to prevent political corruption, etc.

The Members agreed that one of effective ways to carry out the priority projects is to hold inter-sessional special workshops on specific topics, between the GAs and aside from the SC meetings. They also agreed to keep searching for a more systematic approach which will not exclude many diverse sources of inspiration to achieve this goal.

In this regard, the Members welcomed with great appreciation and endorsed the proposal made by Korea to host a special workshop on the issue of state subsidies for mainstream political parties as a means to prevent political corruption, in Seoul, Korea during May 23-25, 2008 (see Annexure - 2). A total of 51 mainstream political parties from 44 countries in the region were selected to be invited to the workshop.

Resolution of ICAPP SC on 'Debt for Equity' Initiative:

The Members gave special attention to the current global financial recession which originated from the U.S. subprime mortgage crisis, recalling the financial crisis of 1997 that had a great impact on Asian economies. They agreed as political leaders of the region that the ICAPP should be more alert on the possible negative effects of such major financial crises on Asian economies and help our respective national governments be better prepared to deal with multiple challenges they will face, such as soaring prices of food and fuel they are already suffering from.

In this regard, the Meeting agreed to adopt the following resolution to help ease the financial burden of debt-ridden developing countries in the region and deliver it to H.E. BAN Ki Moon, U.N. Secretary General for his support:

"At its 9th meeting held in Islamabad, Pakistan on March 29, 2008, the Standing Committee of the International Conference of Asian Political Parties(ICAPP) resolved that the ICAPP-initiated 'Debt for Equity' formula to help finance the United Nations Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) to reduce poverty by 50% by 2015, already endorsed by the U.N. General Assembly as an 'innovative financing' proposal, be now brought by the U.N. Secretary General Ban Ki Moon individually to the leaders of the G-8 countries and the Paris Club members for their consideration and support, since the formula involves no appropriation by the countries concerned, and particularly in the light of the international economic slowdown and the current 'subprime' financial crisis, which has affected a number of major financial institutions."

Time and venue of next SC meetings:

Following the tradition of the ICAPP, it was agreed that the 10th meeting of the SC will be held on the margins of the 5th GA in Islamabad



in October 2008, with its first session in the evening of Thursday, October 16, 2008.

The Members also noted that it has become a tradition since 2006 to have two meetings of the SC in a year, one in the spring and the other in the late autumn and agreed to discuss time and venue for the SC meetings in 2009. In selecting venues for future ICAPP meetings, it was also agreed to give special consideration to the countries which have not had opportunities to host any ICAPP meetings in the past.

Amendments of the ICAPP Charter:

- *Paragraphs 2, 3 and 4 of Article 9 regarding the Composition of the SC:*
The Meeting approved the draft proposals for the amendments of Paragraphs 2, 3 and 4 of Article 9 of the ICAPP Charter regarding the composition of the SC as prepared by the Provisional Secretariat, which reflects the decision taken at the 8th SC meeting in

Tehran in November 2007. The draft proposals will be submitted to the 5th GA for its approval (*see Annexure - 3*).

- *Articles 12 and 13 regarding the Secretariat of the ICAPP:*
In accordance with the mandate received from the 4th GA and also relevant Articles in the ICAPP Charter, in continuation of its discussions at the 8th SC meeting, and in consideration of the increasing need for further institutionalization of the organization and the growing need for continuity and consistency of the ICAPP activities, the Members agreed to establish the Secretariat of the ICAPP in Seoul, Republic of Korea, replacing the current Provisional Secretariat. To reflect the decisions, the Members further agreed to submit the proposals for the amendments of Articles 12 and 13 of the Charter to the 5th GA for its approval, as prepared by the Provisional Secretariat (*see Annexure - 4*).

In this regard, the Members unanimously nominated Co-Chairman CHUNG Eui-yong to assume the position of the Secretary General upon the establishment of the ICAPP Secretariat. Co-Chairman Chung expressed his appreciation for the confidence the Members had shown to him and said that he would confirm his acceptance of the nomination at the next SC meeting, pending the establishment of the Secretariat and political developments in his country.

As the Meeting came to conclusion, the Members extended their deep gratitude to the PML, the PPP and the PML (N), and the Senate and the Government of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan for their warm hospitality. The Members expressed their special appreciation to Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed and his staff for their excellent preparations and hard work for the successful SC meeting.



Appendices

- I. **List of participants of the 9th meeting of the ICAPP Standing Committee.**
- II. **Program of the 9th meeting of the ICAPP Standing Committee.**
- III. **The annotated agenda of the 9th meeting of the ICAPP Standing Committee.**
 1. Preparations for the 5th General Assembly (GA) of the ICAPP.
 2. Issues related to the Standing Committee.
 3. Priority Projects relevant to the ICAPP objectives.
 4. Amendments of the ICAPP Charter.
 5. Review of the political situation in Asia.
 6. Other related issues.
- IV. **Application letter from the People's Power Party of Thailand.**



Appendix - I

List of Participants in the 9th Meeting of the ICAPP Standing Committee

(Islamabad, March 28-29, 2008)

Participating Members: 12



1. H.E. Jose **de Venecia**, President, Lakas-CMD and the former Speaker of the House of Representatives, Republic of the **Philippines**.
(email: venecia@pltdsl.net)



2. Hon. **Chung Eui-yong**, Chairman, Foreign Relations Committee, United Democratic Party, Republic of **Korea**.
(email: eyc72@assembly.go.kr)



3. Hon. Mushahid Hussain **Sayed**, Secretary-General, Pakistan Muslim League, Islamic Republic of **Pakistan**.
(email: mushahid.hussain@gmail.com)



4. Hon. Zahir U. **Swapon**, Information & Research Secretary, Bangladesh Nationalist Party, People's Republic of **Bangladesh**.
(email: zahir15@gmail.com)



5. H.E. **Kol Pheng**, Senior Minister, Minister of Education and Member of the Steering Committee, *attending on behalf of H.E. Keo Puth Reasmey, President of the FUNCINPEC Party*, Kingdom of **Cambodia**
(email: saphan016@yahoo.com /hunlyoeur@yahoo.com)



6. Hon. **Liu Hongcai**, Vice Minister, International Department of the Central Committee, Communist Party of China, People's Republic of **China**.
(email: liyuanling@idcpc.org.cn)



7. Hon. Dr. Manohar Singh **Gill**, Senior Member of the Upper House of Parliament (email: msgill@sansad.nic.in), *attending on behalf of Hon. Dr. Karan Singh, Chairman, Foreign Affairs Department, the Indian National Congress (Indira Gandhi), Republic of India* (email: karansi@sansad.nic.in / karansingh@karansingh.com)
-cc: Hon. Anil. K. Shastri, Special Invitee (email: anilshastri@lbsim.ac.in)



8. Mr. Yerman **Mukhtar Tildabekuli**, Secretary and Member of the Political Bureau, *attending on behalf of Hon. Adilbek R. Jaxybekov, First Deputy Chairman, replacing Hon. Azat T. Peruash, Chairman of the Atameken Union and Member of the Political Bureau, Nur Otan Party, Republic of Kazakhstan.* (email: m.yerman@otan.kz / baipakov_m@inbox.ru)



9. Hon. Rajan **Bhattarai**, Member of International Department (email: rajanbha@gmail.com), *attending on behalf of Hon. Madhav Kumar Nepal, General Secretary, Communist Party of Nepal-UML, Kingdom of Nepal.* email: gamknepal@gmail.com)



10. Hon. Konstantin **Kosachev**, Deputy Secretary for International Policy and Interparty Relations, Presidium of the General Council, United Russia Party, **Russian Federation.** (email: kkosachev@duma.gov.ru / v.gorokhova@edinros.ru)



11. Hon. A. Emin **Önen**, Member of Parliament (email: onen.emin@gmail.com), *attending on behalf of Hon. Egemen Bagis, Vice Chairman, in-charge of Foreign Affairs, Justice and Development Party (AKP), Republic of Turkey.* (email: egemen@egemenbagis.com)



12. Hon. Dr. **Pham Xuan Son**, Vice-Chairman of the Commission for External Relations, *attending on behalf of Hon. Ta Minh Chau, Vice Chairman, Commission for External Affairs of the Central Committee, Communist Party of Vietnam, Socialist Republic of Vietnam* (email: dnanantbdvu@yahoo.com / thiembui@gmail.com)

Special Guest: 1

- Hon. Dr. **Kim** Myung-ja, Chairperson, Special Committee on Ethics, National Assembly, Republic of Korea, and the former Chairperson of the 4th General Assembly of the ICAPP.
(email: stit@assembly.go.kr)

Observers: 3

- i. Mr. Paul Gerhard Schaefer, Resident Representative, Hanns Seidel Foundation (HSF), Manila, the Philippines.
(email: hsfmnl@info.com.ph)
- ii. Mr. Richard Asbeck, Resident Representative, Hanns Seidel Foundation (HSF), Islamabad, Pakistan.
- iii. Dr. Babak Khalatbari, Resident Representative, Konrad-Adenauer Foundation, Islamabad, Pakistan.

Accompanying Staff: 11

Cambodia (1)

- Dr. Pak Thvin, Party Provincial Deputy.

China (5)

- Ms. Ai Ping, Director-General, First Bureau, IDCC-CPC.
- Ms. Rao Huihua, Division-Director, First Bureau, IDCC-CPC.
- Mr. Chang Jiuqing, Staff Member, IDCC-CPC.
- Mr. Zhao Qiang, Staff Member, IDCC-CPC.
- Mr. Hu Xiaodong, Interpreter, IDCC-CPC.
(email: huxiaodong@idcpc.org.cn)

Korea (2)

- Mr. Choi Kwang-pil, Senior Coordinator, ICAPP Secretariat.
(email: choikpil@gmail.com)
- Ms. Park Hyun-ryang, Budget Director, ICAPP Secretariat.
(email: hrpark81@hotmail.com)

Philippines (1)

- Mr. Ruben Pagautan, Security Aide of the former Speaker.

Vietnam (2)

- Mr. Bui Hai Thiem, Researcher, CPV Commission for External Relations.
(email: thiembui@gmail.com)
- Mr. Ngo Le Van, Researcher, CPV Commission for External Relations.
(email: ngolevan.mr@gmail.com)

Non-Participating Members: 6

- Hon. Chris **McDiven**, Federal President, Liberal Party of Australia, Commonwealth of **Australia**.
(email: chris.mcdiven@bigpond.com /bruce.edwards@liberal.org.au)
 - Hon. Theo L. **Sambuaga**, Chairman of the Central Board, GOLKAR Party, Republic of **Indonesia**.
(email: tsambuaga@yahoo.com)
 - Hon. Hossein **Kashefi Vahdati**, Vice-President, Iran Parties House, Islamic Republic of **Iran**.
 - Hon. Kazuyoshi **Akaba**, Chairman of the International Department, New Komeito, **Japan**.
(email: g00123@shugiin.go.jp)
- cc: Hon. Isamu **Ueda**, Vice-Chairman of the International Department.
(email: g00642@shugiin.go.jp)



- Hon. Tan Sri Muhammad bin **Muhammad Taib**, Information Chief, United Malays National Organization, **Malaysia**.
(email: penerangan@umno.org.my)
 - Hon. Surapong **Suebwonglee**, Secretary General of the People's Power Party of **Thailand**.
(email: fon_2164@yahoo.co.th)
- cc: Dato Pirdaus Haji **Ismail**, Supreme Council Member of UMNO Youth.
- cc: Hon. Prachuab Chaiyasan, former Minister of Foreign Affairs, Thai Rak Thai Party, Thailand.
(email: hankrakul@yahoo.com)
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Appendix - II

Program for the 9th Meeting of the ICAPP Standing Committee

(Islamabad, March 28-29, 2008)

March 28 (Friday)

- Arrival of Members
Check-in at Serena Hotel,
Islamabad
Add: Khayaban-e-Suhrawardy,
Islamabad, Pakistan.
- Tel: (92 51)111-133-133,
(92 51)2874000
- Fax: (92 51)2871092, 2871001,
2871100

2000 hrs

- Dinner hosted by Mr. Richard
Asbeck, the Resident Representative
of the Hanns Seidel Foundation,
Islamabad, at # 2, Margalla Road,
F-6/3, Islamabad.

March 29 (Saturday)

1000 - 1200 hrs

Meeting of the Standing
Committee: (Session-I)
(Shamadan Hall, Serena Hotel,
Islamabad)

- Preparations for the 5th General
Assembly of the ICAPP.
- Report on Institutionalization of
decisions taken in 8th Standing
Committee meeting.
- Amendment of the Charter.
- Establishment of permanent
Secretariat
- Other issues

1215 - 1230 hrs

- Group Photograph

1230 - 1330 hrs

- Working Lunch

1400 - 1600 hrs

Meeting of the Standing
Committee: (Session-II)
(Shamadan Hall, Serena Hotel,
Islamabad)

- Review of the political situation in
Asia.
- Approval of Theme/Sub themes
for the 5th General Assembly.

2000 hrs

- Dinner hosted by Senator
Mushahid Hussain Sayed
at Senate Banquet Hall,
Parliament House, Islamabad.

March 30 (Sunday)

Morning

- Departure of the participants

Appendix - III

Draft Annotated Agenda for the 9th Standing Committee Meeting of the International Conference of Asian Political Parties(ICAPP)

(Islamabad, March 28-29, 2008)

1. Preparations for the 5th General Assembly(GA) of the ICAPP

A. Current State of Preparations:

The 8th meeting of the ICAPP Standing Committee (SC), held in Tehran, Iran, during November 22-23, 2007, confirmed the decisions taken at the previous SC meeting to hold the 5th and 6th GA in Islamabad, Pakistan under the auspices of the **Pakistan Muslim League (PML)** in October 2008 and in Tehran, Iran under the auspices of the Iran Parties House in October 2010 respectively.

In the aftermath of the general elections conducted in Pakistan on February 18, 2008, the SC members were informed by the Secretary General of the PML that the other two leading political parties in Pakistan, i.e. the **Pakistan Peoples Party Parliamentarians (PPPP)** and the **Pakistan Muslim League (PML-N)**, are ready and willing to co-host the 5th GA.

An overall report is expected to be made by the representative of the PML on the current state of preparations for the 5th GA of the ICAPP.

B. Main Theme and Sub-themes:

The 8th SC meeting agreed to the PML proposal of "**Towards an Asian Century**" as the main theme of the 5th GA.

There was no disagreement on the three elements proposed by the PML as potential sub-themes, i.e. '**Regionalism**', '**Reconciliation**' & '**Rapprochement**', and '**Radicalism.**' The SC members agreed, however, to continue discussions on the sub-themes in conjunction with the structure and procedures of the GA.

C. Thematic Meetings and other special programs during the GA:

In view of the need to attract broader and more interactive participation by delegates, and, in particular, in consideration of the difficulties of the smaller delegations, the SC members agreed to continue discussions on how to structure thematic meetings and other special programs, such as workshops for woman politicians and young political leaders.

D. Elements to be included in Islamabad Declaration:

Following the tradition of the ICAPP, the 5th GA will conclude its meeting by unanimously adopting a declaration which will not only reflect the results of discussions at the meetings during the GA, but also set out new visions for the future role of the ICAPP in further promoting peace and prosperity in the region. Members of the SC will be requested to present their views on the elements to be included in the declaration which will be drafted by the Pakistani host in cooperation with the Secretariat.

E. Political Parties eligible for participation in the GA:

The 8th SC meeting agreed to the following criteria to be applied for inviting political parties in the future ICAPP meetings:

- political parties which have more than one percent of elected seats in their national parliaments; or
- political parties which have won more than one percent of votes in their national parliamentary elections, as certified and recognized by their national elections commissions.

The Secretariat has identified 240 political parties in 45 countries and one territory existing

in the region which meet the above criteria as of March 25, 2008. The list of the parties is attached herewith for the consideration at the SC meeting as **Annexure - I**. The Secretariat will continue to update the list to reflect the latest outcomes of the elections in the region.

2. Issues Related to the Standing Committee

A. New Membership:

It was agreed at the 7th SC meeting to invite the representatives from the **Justice and Development Party (AKP) of Turkey** and the **United Russia Party of the Russian Federation** to future SC meetings, and, upon their attendance at the meeting, to consider their membership in the SC in order to make the membership of the SC more regionally balanced. Accordingly, invitations were sent to the two parties to attend the last SC meeting in Tehran, but they were not able to participate. Invitations to the 9th SC meeting will be sent again to the two parties, and the issue of the new membership in the SC will be further considered.

Thailand had been represented by the **Thai Rak Thai Party (TRTP)** until the last SC meeting. However, in view of the outcomes of the general elections held on December 23, 2007, the Co-Chairmen of the SC invited the **People's Power Party (PPP)** of Thailand to send its representative to the 9th SC meeting. The decision is to be made at the 9th SC meeting on whether to extend SC membership to the PPP replacing the TRTP.

B. Time and venue of next SC meetings:

Following the tradition of the ICAPP, the 10th SC meeting will be held on the margins of the 5th GA in Islamabad in October, 2008.

The SC members are further expected to discuss time and venue of the future SC meetings in consideration of the following points:

- Article 10 of the ICAPP Charter stipulates that, the SC meeting should be held at least once a year;
- Since 2006, the SC has been holding two meetings in a year; and
- At the previous SC meeting, suggestions were made to give consideration, in selecting venues for future ICAPP meetings, to the countries which have not had opportunities to host any ICAPP meeting.

C. Joint Session with the Executive Committee (EC) of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly (APA):

At the previous SC meeting, Vice Speaker Aboutorabi Fard of the Islamic Consultative Assembly of Iran, who addressed the meeting, proposed to hold a joint session between the SC of the ICAPP and the EC of the APA to form partnership, synergy and cooperation for Asian integration. The SC members welcomed the proposal and decided to further discuss the proposal. In this regard, Co-Chairman Jose de Venecia reminded the SC members that the APA was converted from the Association of Asian Parliaments for Peace (AAPP) which had been launched by the initiative of the ICAPP.

For the information of the SC members, the 3rd GA of the APA will be held in Jakarta, Indonesia in November 2008 and the EC meeting is expected to be held three months prior to the GA. Currently the APA has 40 member parliaments and 18 observers, and the EC is consisted of 40 members representing the 40-member parliaments.

3. Priority Projects relevant to the ICAPP Objectives:

At the previous meeting, the SC members identified the following issues as potential priority projects for the ICAPP:



- State subsidies for mainstream political parties;
- Initiatives for inter-faith dialogue;
- Fight against poverty, including the creation of micro-financing programs and other rural area support programs;
- Global warming; and
- Participation of women in social activities.

Further, the members shared the view that, among the above issues, the issue of state subsidies for mainstream political parties is of the utmost importance and urgency to strengthen democracy and prevent political corruption, and requested the Secretariat to prepare, and circulate among the SC members before the next meeting, a draft work program to pursue this issue as its top priority project. The Secretariat's initial report is attached as *Annexure - 2*.

4. Amendments of the ICAPP Charter:

At the previous SC meeting, the members agreed to amend Paragraphs 2 and 3 of Article 9 of the ICAPP Charter which stipulate on the composition of the SC. Accordingly the SC will submit its report with recommendations for the adoption by the consensus at the 5th GA. The draft report is attached as *Annexure - 3*. Further, in continuation of discussions at the 8th SC meeting, the issue of establishing a permanent Secretariat of the ICAPP should be taken up to prepare recommendations of the SC to be submitted to the 5th GA. In this regard, a proposal from Korea is attached for consideration by the SC members as *Annexure - 4*.

5. Review of the Political Situation in Asia:

The SC members can make presentations on the current political situation in their country or in the region as a whole.

6. Other Related Issues:

A. Regional Integration:

Continued exchange of views is expected among the members on how to interlock, through increased collaborations and coordination among political parties, and sub-regional political and economic organizations in Asia, such as ASEAN, ACD, ASEAN plus Three, ARF, CAU, CICA, GCC, SAARC, SCO, EAS, etc.

B. Other Issues:

Members can raise other relevant issues under this item.

Appendix - IV

Application Letter from Hon. Dr. Surapong Suebwonglee, Secretary General of the People's Power Party of Thailand

(Islamabad, March 28-29, 2008)

March 21, 2008
Hon. CHUNG Eui-yong
Co-Chairman,
The International Conference of Asian Political Parties (ICAPP) Standing Committee

Dear Mr. Co-Chairman, ICAPP Standing Committee

I would like to thank for your attentive letter that invite me and our People's Power Party to join a meeting of the 9th meeting of the ICAPP Standing Committee which will be held in Islamabad, Pakistan during March 28-30 this year. In this regard, we would like to inform you that the People's Power Party of Thailand will not be able to attend the meeting.

However, the People's Power Party of Thailand would like to succeed as a member of the International Conference of Asian Political Parties (ICAPP), both as a member in Standing Committee and as a general member in ICAPP.

The political situation in Thailand at the moment is quite instable. The People's Power Party of Thailand, as a core of coalition government, is now trying its best to overcome economic and political problem of the current situation. Our leading members are so busy in engaging themselves with day to day business and facing with new problem arise out of law and regulation written by military regime.

Should you accept this letter as an application letter to join ICAPP, both as a member of Standing Committee (SC) and general member of ICAPP, our party will participate in the meeting of ICAPP in the future of appropriate moment.

Sincerely yours,

Dr. Surapong Suebwonglee,
Secretary General of the People's Power Party of Thailand

1770 New Pelchaburi Road,
Bangkapi, Huay Kwang, Bangkok 10310
Tel: 66-2-636-7000 Fax: 66-2-686-7100
www.ppp.or.th



Annexures

- 1. Political parties eligible for participation in the ICAPP activities.**
- 2. Draft report on the Work Program on State Subsidies for Mainstream Political Parties.**
- 3. Draft proposals for amendment of Article 9 of the ICAPP Charter.**
- 4. Recommendations to establish the Secretariat of the International Conference of Asian Political Parties (ICAPP).**



Annexure - 1

Political parties eligible for participation in the ICAPP activities (as of March 25, 2008)

1. Criteria for invitation agreed upon at the 8th meeting of the ICAPP Standing Committee held on November 23, 2007 in Tehran:
 - Political parties which have more than one (1) percent of elected seats in their national parliaments; or
 - Political parties which have won more than one (1) percent of votes in their latest national parliamentary elections, as certified and recognized by their national elections commissions.
2. Number of political parties eligible for participation in the ICAPP activities in accordance with the above criteria:

240 political parties in 45 countries and one territory:

Countries	Number of political parties	Countries	Number of political parties
Armenia	5	Australia	3
Azerbaijan	6	Bahrain	4
Bangladesh	5	Cambodia	3
China	1	Cyprus	11
East Timor	9	Fiji Islands	3
Georgia	3	India	14
Indonesia	8	Iran	3
Iraq	4	Israel	12
Japan	5	Jordan	1
Kazakhstan	5	Kiribati	2
Korea (DPR)	1	Korea (Rep. of)	4
Laos	1	Lebanon	12
Malaysia	13	Mongolia	3
Nepal	7	New Zealand	8
Pakistan	7	Papua New Guinea	5
Philippines	12	Russian Federation	4
Samoa	2	Singapore	4
Sri Lanka	7	Syria	7
Tajikistan	3	Thailand	7
Tonga	1	Turkey	3
Turkmenistan	1	Uzbekistan	5
Vanuatu	6	Vietnam	1
Yemen	3	(Palestine)	6
	115		125



3. The following countries may be considered to be invited as observers to the future ICAPP activities (16) :

A. Countries which do not have formally organized political parties (8):

Brunei, Kuwait, Marshall Islands, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Tuvalu, United Arab Emirates.

B. Countries where members of parliaments are all independents (4):

Maldives, Micronesia, Nauru, Palau.

C. Countries with different situation (4):

■ **Afghanistan:** Most candidates ran as independents at the last held election in September 2005.

■ **Bhutan:** No election held since March 1962.

■ **Kyrgyzstan:** Elections for the new unicameral body or Jorgorku Kenesh were held in February 2005, but the vast majority of seats remained undecided. Data on seats by political parties is unavailable.

■ **Myanmar:** The last general elections were held in May 1990, but assembly has not been allowed to convene.

Annexure - 2

Draft Report on the Work Program on State Subsidies for Mainstream Political Parties

Background of the Proposal:

The 8th meeting of the Standing Committee(SC) of the International Conference of Asian Political Parties(ICAPP), held in Tehran during Nov. 22-23, 2007, has identified several issues as potential priority projects relevant to the ICAPP objectives, and decided that, among them, the issue of state subsidies for mainstream political parties is of the utmost importance and urgency to strengthen democracy and prevent political corruption in many countries in the region.

The SC meeting requested the Provisional Secretariat in Seoul to do research on best practices in providing public support to political parties in various countries and submit a report to the SC with a draft work program on how the ICAPP will pursue this issue as its priority project. In accordance with the above mandate, the provisional Secretariat has prepared the following report on an initial work program to be considered at the 9th SC meeting to be held in Islamabad during March 28-30, 2008.

■ Research on Best Practices

The Secretariat has been conducting research on best practices in advanced countries with a view to producing a comprehensive report on the subject. In this regard, members of the ICAPP are requested to provide any information or suggestions on the subject, including the political realities and difficulties they are facing in their respective countries.

■ Proposal for a Special Workshop of the ICAPP

The Provisional Secretariat of the ICAPP is willing to sponsor a special workshop for the members of the ICAPP in close cooperation with the ICAPP Parliamentarians' Union in the

Korean National Assembly which was recently organized by 50 parliamentarians to support the ICAPP activities.

1. Time and Venue:

Seoul, Korea, May 23-24, 2008.

2. Invitees:

- Representatives of 18 political parties represented in the SC:

Australia, Bangladesh, Cambodia, China, India, Indonesia, Iran, Japan, Kazakhstan, Republic of Korea, Malaysia, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Russia, Thailand, Turkey, Vietnam.

- Representatives from one mainstream political party from each country which is not represented in the SC and to be selected by the SC:

Armenia, Azerbaijan, Fiji, Georgia, Iraq, Jordan, DPR Korea, Kyrgyzstan, Laos, Lebanon, Maldives, Mongolia, New Zealand, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Syria, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Yemen).

3. Expenses: To be provided by sponsors:

- Local accommodation for one representative from each participating political party;
- Round trip air transportation for one representative of each participating party from developing countries.



**4. Program of the Workshop:
Friday, May 23**

Afternoon
Registration of the Participants

1900 hrs
Reception

Saturday, May 24

0730 hrs
Breakfast

0830 hrs
Opening Session

0900 - 1200 hrs

Session I:

- presentation on best practices in Europe and Asia.
- discussion on model legislation.

1215 - 1330 hrs
Working Lunch

1345 - 1745 hrs

Session-II:

- exchange of views on the political realities and difficulties in the developing countries.
- discussion on how to introduce effective system of state subsidies and a model legislation.

1800 - 1830 hrs
Wrap-up and Closing Session

1900 - 2100 hrs
Informal Dinner.

Sunday, May 25

0530 - 1900 hrs
Tour of Gaesung Tourist Site in North Korea(optional)

Monday, May 26

Morning
Departure of Participants

Annexure - 3

Draft proposals for amendment of Article 9 of the ICAPP Charter

The Standing Committee of the ICAPP submits the following proposal to the General Assembly with recommendation to amend Paragraphs 2, 3, and 4 of Article 9 in accordance with the procedures stipulated in Article 14 of the ICAPP Charter.

A. Amendment of Para 2 of Article 9:

- Current provision

For the purposes of forming the Standing Committee, the region will be divided into the following six groups, and each group will select three representatives to represent three political parties from three different countries at the Standing Committee:

- a. Northeast Asia (China, Japan, DPRK, Republic of Korea, Mongolia);
- b. Southeast Asia (Cambodia, East Timor, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam);
- c. South Asia (Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka);
- d. West Asia (Bahrain, Cyprus, Iran, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Palestine, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Syrian Arab Republic, Turkey);
- e. Central Asia (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russian Federation, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan); and
- f. Oceania (Australia, Fiji Islands, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Nauru, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Vanuatu).

- Recommended amendment

The members of the Standing Committee, who will serve for two years from the end of a General Assembly until the end of the following General

Assembly, shall be nominated at the Standing Committee meeting held on the margins of the General Assembly and approved by the General Assembly.

B. Amendment of Para 3 of Article 9:

- Current provision

Members of the Standing Committee shall actively participate in all ICAPP activities and programs. If a member, or his or her designated representative from the same political party, fails to attend the Standing Committee meetings for more than two (2) consecutive times, the membership of the party in the Standing Committee shall automatically be revoked.

- Recommended amendment

Members of the Standing Committee shall actively participate in all ICAPP activities and programs. If a member, or his or her designated representative from the same political party, fails to attend the Standing Committee meetings for more than two (2) consecutive times, without providing reasonable cause of absence, the membership of the party in the Standing Committee may be revoked by the decision of the Standing Committee.

C. Amendment of Para 4 of Article 9:

- Current provision

The terms of office for each member of the Standing Committee shall commence immediately upon the conclusion of the General Assembly and shall continue until the conclusion of the following General Assembly.

- Recommended amendment

Delete

Annexure - 4

Recommendations to establish the Secretariat of the International Conference of Asian Political Parties (ICAPP)

Background:

At the 4th General Assembly held in Seoul in September 2006, the members of the ICAPP agreed that *further institutionalization of the ICAPP is necessary in order to achieve its goal, since it would be a long term exercise, involving all the political parties in the region, and that the steps to share our experiences and knowledge in party-building and modernization should be incorporated in the process.* With this understanding, the members *adopted the ICAPP Charter and mandated the Standing Committee of the ICAPP to prepare the plan to implement the Charter from the 5th General Assembly of the ICAPP. (Seoul Declaration)*

The current **ICAPP Charter**, adopted at the 4th General Assembly, has Articles 12 and 13 in Chapter V on Secretariat, which read as follows;

Article 12

1. *The political party, or parties, designated to host the following General Assembly will function as the Secretariat of the ICAPP (hereinafter referred to as the "Secretariat") until the host of the next General Assembly is decided.*
2. *The issue of establishing a permanent Secretariat may be considered, if deemed necessary, at the General Assembly.*

Article 13

1. *The Secretariat shall be responsible for the administrative matters of the ICAPP, in accordance with the Charter, including updating the list of political parties in the region, which become eligible for membership of the ICAPP, maintain close contacts with such political parties by sharing information about the activities*

of the ICAPP, and maintain and manage the website of the ICAPP.

2. *The administrative matters of the ICAPP shall also entail the preparations for, and the organization of, the General Assembly, including the logistical details, as prescribed in Article 8 of this Charter.*

In accordance with the mandate received from the General Assembly and also relevant articles in the Charter, the Standing Committee has considered the issue of establishing a permanent Secretariat of the ICAPP since its 7th meeting in Seoul in February 2007.

In its 8th meeting in Tehran in November 2007, the Standing Committee decided to set up a provisional Secretariat in Seoul, Republic of Korea until a final decision is made, preferably at the 5th General Assembly in Islamabad in October 2008, and designated its main functions, among other things, as follows:

- *to maintain and update the list of the political parties in the region, a database for the ICAPP activities and the official website: www.theicapp.org;*
- *to provide necessary information and assistance to the members of the ICAPP, in particular the members of the Standing Committee and the host of the General Assembly in assuming their roles in the ICAPP activities; and*
- *to establish contacts and promote cooperation with other regional organizations of political parties, such as the Conference of Political Parties of Latin America and the Caribbean (COPPAL), and other relevant international or regional*

organizations, such as the International Parliamentary Union (IPU) and the Asian Parliamentary Assembly (APA).

Recommendations:

In view of the increasing activities of the ICAPP and the growing need for institutionalization of the ICAPP, at its 9th meeting in Islamabad in March 2008, the members of the Standing Committee agreed to submit the following recommendations to the 5th General Assembly to be held in Islamabad in October 2008 for its approval:

A. Chapter V on Secretariat of the ICAPP Charter will be amended as follows:

Article 12

The Secretariat of the ICAPP shall be established to execute the following functions, among others:

- to maintain and update the list of the political parties in the region, a database for the ICAPP activities and the official website (www.theicapp.org);
- to provide necessary information and assistance to the members of the ICAPP, in particular the members of the Standing Committee and the host of the General Assembly in assuming their roles in the ICAPP activities; and
- to establish contacts and promote cooperation with other international or regional organizations of political parties, and other international or regional parliamentary organizations.

Article 13

1. The Secretariat shall comprise a Secretary-General and such staff as the ICAPP activities may require. The

Secretary-General shall be appointed by the Standing Committee. The appointment shall be subject to confirmation at the General Assembly.

2. The Secretary-General shall act in that capacity in all ICAPP meetings and perform such other functions as are entrusted by the General Assembly and/or the Standing Committee.

B. The budget and personnel to implement the functions of the Secretariat, as described in the above amendments of the Charter, shall be initially provided by the host country. Issues relating to the future budget and personnel of the Secretariat will continue to be discussed in the Standing Committee.

C. The ICAPP Secretariat shall be established in Seoul, Republic of Korea.



Chronology of the ICAPP Meetings



Chronology of the ICAPP meetings

The 1st International Conference of Asian Political Parties (ICAPP) was held in Manila on September 18-19, 2000. It was sponsored and hosted by LAKAS-CMD of the Philippines (then called LAKAS-NUCD-CMDP). The Conference was attended by about 180 people: representatives of 46 political parties (including 16 parties in power) from 26 Asian countries and observers from European, Latin American and African political parties and foundations, as well as some specially invited guests. A number of important statesmen and party leaders from Asia attended the Conference, including Chuan Leekpai, Prime Minister of Thailand and Head of the Democratic Party; Abdurrahman Wahid, President of Indonesia and founder of the National Awakening Party; Prince Norodom Ranariddh, President of the Cambodian National Assembly and Chairman of the Funcinpec Party; Kim Young-sam, former President of the Republic of Korea and Leader of the Grand National Party; Fidel Ramos, former President of the Philippines; and Benazir Bhutto, former Prime Minister of Pakistan. Ma Wenpu, Vice Minister of the International Department of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China (CPC), represented the CPC at the Conference.

The theme of the First ICAPP was to "Build bridges and foster a culture of partnership among Asian political parties." Adhering to the principles of seeking consensus while reserving differences and holding discussions as equals, representatives of political parties throughout Asia delivered speeches at general meetings and participated in group discussions on the three topics of "Asia's Road of Development", "Peace and Security" and "Democracy and Good Governance". At the opening ceremony, Jose de Venecia, Chairman of this Conference and former Speaker of the House of Representatives of the Philippines, noted that in the last century political parties in Asia led

the people of their countries in overthrowing colonial rule and creating economic miracles, and said that all Asian political parties should now work for strengthening regional political cooperation in order to build up a peaceful, free and prosperous Asia.

The 2nd ICAPP was held in Bangkok on November 22-24, 2002. It was hosted by the Thai Rak Thai Party, the party in power in Thailand. More than 230 people attended the Conference, including representatives from 77 political parties and organizations and invited government representatives from 35 Asian-Pacific countries, and invited guests from such international organizations as the World Bank and the United Nations Development Program. Among them were many prime ministers and parliamentary heads and 24 party chairpersons or general secretaries, including Jose de Venecia, Speaker of the House of Representatives of the Philippines and Chairman of the LAKAS-CMD; Thaksin Shinawatra, Prime Minister of Thailand and Chairman of the Thai Rak Thai Party; Hun Sen, Prime Minister of Cambodia and Leader of the Cambodian People's Party; Akbar Tanjung, Chairman of Indonesia's Golkar Party; Wong Kan Seng, Member of the Central Executive Committee of the People's Action Party and Home Affairs Minister of Singapore; and Gennady Zyuganov, Chairman of the Russian Communist Party. Cai Wu, Vice Minister of the International Department of the CPC Central Committee, attended the Conference as the CPC's representative.

The theme of the Second ICAPP was "Promoting Consensus and Enhancing Cooperation." Discussions among party representatives revolved around the three topics of Economic Cooperation, Regional Security, and Good Governance and Political Participation, and consensus was achieved on



a series of issues. Jose de Venecia, Speaker of the House of Representatives of the Philippines and Chairman of the ICAPP Standing Committee, stressed that the ultimate purpose of a mechanism for multilateral cooperation among Asian political parties is to establish a free, friendly “Asian community” or an “Asian union” for common prosperity that enjoys the support of the various Asian political parties. He proposed that the main tasks of the Second ICAPP should be to pass the Bangkok Action Program and work to achieve the “Manila targets.”

The 3rd International Conference of Asian Political Parties adopted the Beijing Declaration which said the Conference has strengthened friendship, exchange and cooperation, and enhanced understanding, trust and consensus.

Leaders and representatives of 81 political parties from 35 countries attended the Third International Conference of Asian Political Parties (ICAPP) hosted by the Communist Party of China in Beijing on September 3-5, 2004.

The 4th Standing Committee Meeting of the ICAPP (International Conference of Asian Political Parties) was held in Seoul, the Republic of Korea. The meeting was chaired by H.E. Jose de Venecia, Chairman of the Standing Committee and the Speaker of the House of Representatives of the Republic of the Philippines, and attended by 12 members in total.

A consensus was reached at the meeting to hold the 4th ICAPP Meeting in Seoul in September, 2006 under the auspices of the Uri Party of the Republic of Korea. The meeting also decided to hold, under the sponsorship of political parties, the 2008 ICAPP Meeting either in South Asia (India or Pakistan) or West Asia (Iran).

The Uri Party submitted to the meeting the draft procedures, proposals for the main theme and

sub-themes, and tentative program for the 4th ICAPP Meeting.

The 5th meeting of the Standing Committee of the International Conference of Asian Political Parties (ICAPP) was held in Seoul, Republic of Korea. The meeting was chaired by H.E. Jose de Venecia, Chairman of the Standing Committee and Speaker of the House of Representatives of the Republic of the Philippines, and attended, in total, by 10 members of the Standing Committee.

At the meeting, the members discussed a wide range of issues pertaining to the following topics:

1. Preparations for the 4th General Assembly of the ICAPP (hereinafter referred to as “the 4th ICAPP”).
2. Elements to be included in the Seoul Declaration on Peace and Prosperity in Asia.
3. Further institutionalization of the ICAPP.
4. Venue of the 5th General Assembly of the ICAPP.
5. Other ICAPP related matters.

The 6th meeting of the Standing Committee of the International Conference of Asian Political Parties was held in Seoul, Republic of Korea on the margins of the 4th General Assembly (GA) of the ICAPP. The meeting was conducted in four sessions. This was the third time the Standing Committee meeting was held in Seoul.

The Meeting was chaired by H.E. Jose de Venecia, Chairman of the Standing Committee and Speaker of the House of Representatives of the Republic of the Philippines, and attended, in total, by 13 members of the Standing Committee.

At the Meeting, the Members discussed a wide range of issues pertaining to the following topics:

1. Preparations for the 4th GA of the ICAPP.

2. The Seoul Declaration on Peace and Prosperity in Asia (hereinafter referred to as “the Seoul Declaration”).
3. The Charter of the ICAPP (hereinafter referred to as “the Charter”).
4. The venue for the 5th GA of the ICAPP to be held in 2008.
5. Other related matters of the ICAPP.

The 7th Meeting of the Standing Committee of the International Conference of Asian Political Parties was held in Seoul, Republic of Korea. The Meeting was chaired by H.E. Jose de Venecia, Chairman of the Standing Committee and Speaker of the House of Representatives of the Republic of the Philippines, and attended, in total, by 12 members of the Standing Committee.

At the Meeting, the Members discussed a wide range of issues pertaining to the following topics:

1. Review of the ICAPP activities.
2. Future of the ICAPP, which included:
 - (a) the venue of the 5th General Assembly of the ICAPP;
 - (b) the venue of the 8th Standing Committee of the ICAPP;
 - (c) formation of the new Standing Committee;
 - (d) selection of the priority projects relevant to the ICAPP objectives;
 - (e) improvement of the official website of the ICAPP; and
 - (f) update on the Database of the Political Parties in Asia.
3. Other related matters.

The 8th Standing Committee Meeting was held successfully in Tehran from 22-23, 2007. The Meeting was co-chaired by Co-chairmen of the Standing Committee, H.E. Jose de Venecia, Speaker of the House Representatives

of the Republic of the Philippines and Hon. Chung Eui-yong, Chairman of the Committee on Foreign Affairs & Security of the United New Democratic Party of the Republic of Korea, and attended, in total, by 9 members of the Standing Committee.

H.E. Mohammad Hussain Abutorabi Fard, Vice Speaker of the Islamic Consultative Assembly addressed the Meeting and proposed a joint meeting between the Standing Committee of the ICAPP and the Executive Committee of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly to form partnership, synergy and cooperation for Asian integration.

During the Meeting, the members discussed a wide range of issues pertaining to:

1. building an Asian Community;
2. preparations for the 5th General Assembly;
3. further institutionalization of the ICAPP;
4. priority projects relevant to the ICAPP objectives; and
5. review of political situations in Asia.

The members agreed to set up a provisional secretariat in Seoul until a final decision is made at the 5th General Assembly in Islamabad, and the majority of the members identified state subsidies for mainstreaming political parties as the utmost, important and urgent issue, at the moment, to strengthen and develop democracy and prevent political corruption in many developing countries. The members requested the provisional secretariat in Seoul to do research, based on practices of state subsidies for political parties in advanced countries, and make a report with a draft work program on how the ICAPP will pursue this issue as its priority project.

The 9th Standing Committee (SC) meeting of the ICAPP was held successfully in Islamabad, Pakistan during March 28-29, 2008.



The following are major decisions reached during the Meeting:

1) Time and Venue of the 5th General Assembly of the ICAPP:

- October 24-26, 2008 at the National Convention Center in Islamabad, Pakistan.
- The 5th General Assembly will be co-hosted by Pakistan Muslim League, Pakistan Peoples Party Parliamentarians and Pakistan Muslim League-N.

2) New Members and replacements of SC Members:

New Members:

- i. Hon. Konstantin Kosachev (United Russia Party).
- ii. Hon. Egemen Bagis (Justice and Development Party).

Member Replacements:

- i. Hon. Adilbeck R. Jaxybekov (Nur Otan Party of Kazakhstan) to replace Hon. Azat T. Peruash.
- ii. Hon. Kazuyoshi Akaba (New Komeito of Japan) to replace Hon. Hiroshi Takano.

Party Replacement:

- The People's Power Party (PPP) of Thailand to replace the Thai Rak Thai Party.

3) Establishment of the Secretariat of the ICAPP in Seoul replacing the current provisional Secretariat and nomination of Co-Chairman Chung Eui-yong as the Secretary General of the ICAPP Secretariat.

4) Amendments of the Charter:

- i. Paragraphs 2, 3 and 4 of Article 9 of Chapter 4 on Standing Committee.
- ii. Articles 12 and 13 of Chapter 5 on Secretariat.

5) Supports and resolution:

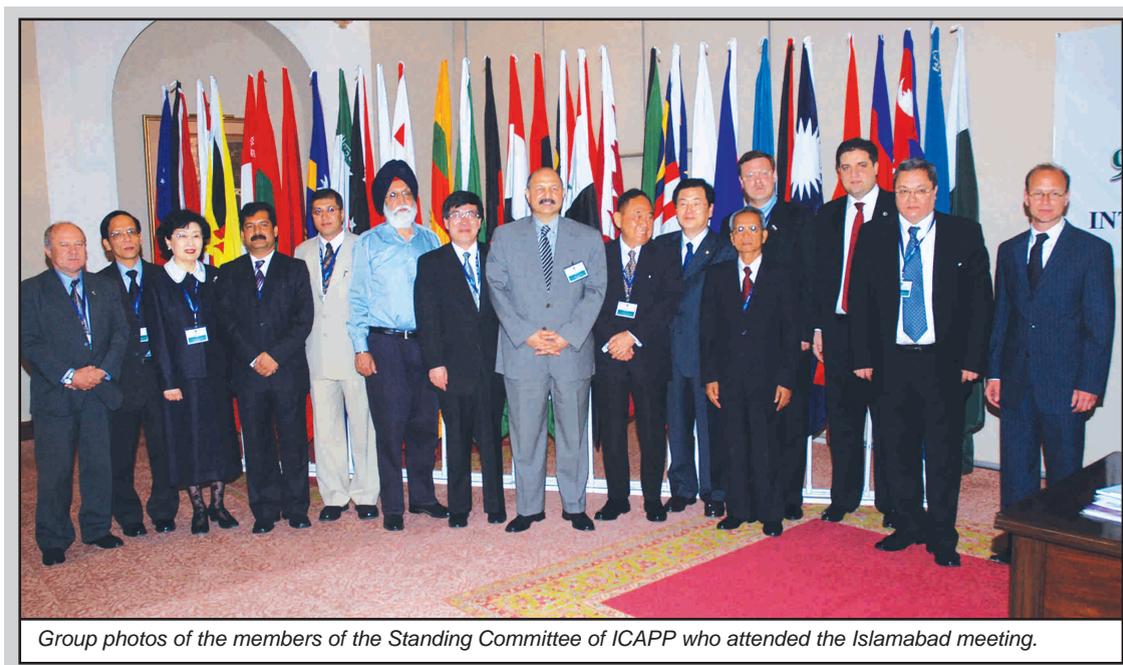
- Strong support for the new Government in Pakistan.
- Support for successful Olympic Games in Beijing.
- Resolution of ICAPP SC on 'Debt for Equity' Initiative.

6) First Priority Project of the ICAPP to be held in Seoul, Korea during May 23-25, 2008.



Photo Gallery





Group photos of the members of the Standing Committee of ICAPP who attended the Islamabad meeting.



Chinese President Hu Jintao welcoming Senator Mushahid Hussain at the 3rd ICAPP held in Beijing, China.



Asian Solidarity: ICAPP, Seoul 2007.



Senator Mushahid Hussain signing the Condolence Book regarding the earthquake victims on behalf of the people of Pakistan, at the Headquarters of the Communist Party of China in Beijing on June 19, 2008.



Discussions at the International Department of the Communist Party of China.



Expressing solidarity with the Chinese people by paying homage to the victims of the earthquake. This was the first visit by any delegation from Pakistan immediately after the earthquake.



**Profiles of the
Chairman and Members of the
Senate Foreign Relations Committee**





Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed

(PML - Federal Capital)
Chairman

Mushahid Hussain Sayed is currently a Senator and Chairman, Foreign Relations Committee of the Senate. He is also Secretary General of the Pakistan Muslim League. He has been a Cabinet Minister, Journalist, university teacher and political analyst. As Information Minister from 1997 to 1999, Mushahid Hussain was the country's principal spokesman and appeared frequently on international television and radio channels to present Pakistan's position on issues ranging from nuclear weapons to Islam and foreign policy. He was also Leader of Pakistan's Delegation to the UN Human Rights Commission at Geneva in 1993.

After October 12, 1999, Mushahid Hussain was held without any charges as a political prisoner for four-hundred and forty (440) days, including a period in solitary imprisonment. The world's leading human rights organization, Amnesty International, declared him a 'Prisoner of Conscience' making him the first such Pakistani to be honoured for the year 2000.

Mushahid Hussain has a Master's degree from the School of Foreign Services in Georgetown University at Washington. While studying in the US, he was President of the Pakistan Students Association and was awarded a Congressional Internship to work in the United States Congress. After completion of studies in the United States, he returned to Pakistan and became Member, Directing Staff of the country's prestigious training institution for civil servants, the Pakistan Administrative Staff College, training new diplomats. He then joined Pakistan's oldest seat of learning, the Punjab University, as Lecturer on International Relations in the Political Science Department, from where he along with three other teachers was removed on political grounds during Martial Law.

In 1982, at age 29, he became the youngest Editor of national English daily, 'The Muslim', published from capital Islamabad, which was respected for its independent positions.

As a specialist on international political and strategic issues, he has lectured widely and his articles have been published in various national and international publications including 'The New York Times', 'The Washington Post', 'International Herald Tribune', and 'Middle East International'. He was elected Co-Chairman of the NAM Media Conference of 100 countries, held in New Delhi in December 1983 and he is the first Pakistani journalist to have started a syndicated column in the Indian media, writing regularly in the 'Times of India' and the 'Hindustan Times' in 1989.

Mr. Mushahid Hussain is the author of three books. He is also Chairman of the Board of Governors of Islamabad Policy Research Institute (IPRI), a leading Think Tank.

He is also the Vice President of the Centrist Democrat International (CDI) Asia – Pacific Chapter. On January 27, 2006, he was awarded Congressional Medal of Achievement by the House of Representatives of the Republic of the Philippines. He served as Pakistan's Representative to the 15-member Commission of Eminent Persons of the Organization of Islamic Conference (OIC) tasked with preparing a Plan of Action & Reforms for the Muslim World by the Summit of Islamic Leaders held in Malaysia in October, 2003.

Membership of the Senate Committees:

- Committee on Foreign Relations, Kashmir Affairs and Northern Areas (**Chairman**)
- Committee on Defence and Defence Production.
- Functional Committee on Government Assurances.

- Functional Committee on Human Rights.
- Finance Committee

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Makhdoom Shah Mehmood Qureshi

Foreign Minister
Ex-Officio Member

- Academic Qualification: M.A. (CANTAB)
- Educational Institutions attended:
 - (i) Aitcheson College, Lahore, Pakistan
 - (ii) F.C. College, Lahore, Pakistan
 - (iii) Cambridge University, U.K.
- Marital status: Married with three children.

Political Positions:

- Federal Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs, Pakistan (1994 – 96)
- Federal Parliamentary Secretary for Food and Agriculture, Pakistan (1993 – 94)
- Minister for Planning and Development, Punjab, Pakistan (1988 – 90)
- Minister for Finance, Punjab, Pakistan (1990 – 93)
- Chairman, Prime Minister's Task Force on Agriculture (1993)
- Chairman, Institutional Reforms Group, Government of Pakistan (1994 – 96)
- Deputy Secretary General, Pakistan Peoples Party, Pakistan (1997)
- Spokesman to the Chairperson, Pakistan Peoples Party, Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto (1996)
- Member, Central Executive Committee, Pakistan Peoples Party (1997)
- Chairman, Policy Planning Committee, Pakistan Peoples Party, Pakistan
- Chairman, Multan Development Authority (2001)
- Chairman Market Committee, Multan (2001)
- President, PPP – Punjab (2006)
- President Alliance for Restoration of Democracy (ARD), Punjab



Senator Wasim Sajjad
(PML - Federal Capital)
Member

Mr. Wasim Sajjad was born on 30th March, 1941. He went to Oxford as a Rhodes Scholar in 1964 from where he obtained the Degrees of M.A. (Jurisprudence) and B.C.L. He is a Barrister-at-Law from the Inner Temple London and an Honorary Fellow of Wadham College, Oxford.

He has a highly distinguished career in politics and public service and has held the offices of :

President of Pakistan (July to November, 1993 and December, 1997 to January, 1998).

Chairman, Senate of Pakistan (24th December, 1988 to 12th October, 1999). Elected in 1988 and re-elected in 1991, 1994 and 1997.

Federal Minister for Law, Justice & Parliamentary Affairs (September, 1986 to December 1988). Has also held the portfolio of the Federal Minister for Interior & Narcotics Control.

Leader of the House in the Senate of Pakistan, 2003 - 2008.

Leader of the Opposition in the Senate of Pakistan, 1988.

He was elected as Senator from Punjab on a technocrat seat in 1985. Re-elected in 1991, 1994, 1997 and 2003. As a Lawyer by profession, he is presently heading his own law firm (Sajjad Law Associates) having its Head Office in Islamabad.

He is also the President of the Foundation for Advancement of Science & Technology and Chancellor of the National University of Computer and Emerging Sciences.

Mr. Wasim Sajjad has travelled extensively and visited over fifty countries. He is married and has three children.

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Senator S. M. Zafar
(PML - Punjab)
Member

Senator S. M. Zafar is a prominent lawyer and former Federal Minister for Law and Parliamentary Affairs, Pakistan. He is involved with various works and is Chairman of the Pakistan Institute of Legislative Development and Transparency - PILDAT's Board of Advisors, Chairman of the Human Rights Society of Pakistan as well as of the Senate Committee on Human Rights. He was President of the High Court Bar Association Lahore (1975) and President of the Supreme Court Bar Association (1979). He is also Chairman of the Cultural Association of Pakistan. Senator Zafar has visited the US, Canada, UK, France and Germany. He enjoys farming and has three sons and a daughter.

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Senator Muhammad Ali Durrani
(PML - Punjab)
Member

Senator Muhammad Ali Durrani, former Minister for Information and Broadcasting, is a leading political activist and grass roots organizer of his party who founded the youth movement "Pasban". He was Secretary General of the National Alliance, a coalition partner of the ruling party. He is also the President of the Wise Education Society and Women Welfare Society. He is the Founder of the Institute of Afghan Affairs (1985) and Education for All (EFA). He has launched campaigns for the Kashmir cause, free employment (1997), Shaukat Khanum Memorial Trust Hospital, collective marriage ceremony, true freedom (2000), and for relief on foreign debt (2001). He played a leading role in the establishment of IJI (1988), Millat Party, National Alliance and the Grand National Alliance. Senator Durrani has visited Europe, Asia and Africa and is married with three sons and a daughter.

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Senator Prof. Khurshid Ahmad
(MMA - NWFP)
Member

A world renowned research scholar, an educationist, an economist, a versatile writer and a preacher of Islam, Prof. Khurshid Ahmad was born on March 23, 1932 at Delhi, India. He holds a Bachelors degree in Law and Jurisprudence, Masters degrees in Economics and Islamic Studies and an Honorary Doctorate (Ph.D) in Education. Prof. Khurshid Ahmad has held the portfolio of the Federal Minister of Planning and Development and has been Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission in the Government of Pakistan from 1978 to 1979. He has written around 30 books in English, over 20 in Urdu and contributed to a large number of magazines. Senator Ahmed was elected as member of the Senate in February, 2003, and is a member of the Senate's Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Kashmir Affairs and Northern Affairs. He previously served as member of the Senate from March 1985 till March 1997. During that tenure he was also Chairman of the Senate Standing Committee on Finance and Economic Affairs from 1991 till March, 1997. He is Vice President (Naib Ameer) of Jama'at-e-Islami Pakistan and Founder and Chairman of both Institute of Policy Studies, Islamabad and the Islamic Foundation, Leicestershire, UK.

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Senator Nisar A. Memon
(PML - Sindh)
Member

Senator Nisar A. Memon is the Chairman of the Standing Committee on Defence & Defence Production. He is also the former Chief Executive of the IBM Pakistan. Mr. Nisar Memon previously served as Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting three times (1993, 2002 and 2007); as President of the Overseas investors chamber of Commerce & Industry Pakistan (1994); and as Chairman Board of Directors, Engro Chemicals Limited, Pakistan (2001-2002). He is a Syndicate member of Karachi University and President of The Reformers. Senator Memon has visited Europe, USA, Canada, Middle East, Africa and Central Asia. He is married with two daughters and enjoys reading and playing Golf.

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Senator Maulana Sami-ul-Haq
(MMA - NWFP)
Member

Senator Sami-ul-Haq completed education from Jamia Darul Uloom Haqqania Akora Khattak, and received a degree in Tafseer from spiritual leader Maulana Ahmad Ali Lahori. He was awarded an honorary degree from Darululoom Deoband India and Jamia Makka Muazzama, serving as Chancellor and Teacher of Hadith. Senator Maulana Sami-ul-Haq is a central leader of MMA and runs Dar ul Uloom Haqqania, a religious seminary at Akora Khattak, NWFP. He is also the Chairman of the Senate Committee on Religious Affairs and Minorities Affairs, and has been serving in the Senate of Pakistan since 1985. Senator Sami-ul-Haq is the Secretary General of the JUI-S, and Senior Vice President of the Islamic Democratic Alliance. He is Founder and Secretary General of the National Uniformity council (A common council of all religious political parties). He is the also the founder of the monthly Jamia Haqqania Al-Haq, and has authored several religio-political books in Urdu.

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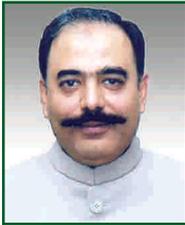
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Senator Muhammad Talha Mahmood Aryan
(MMA - NWFP)
Member

Membership of the Senate Committees:

- Standing Committee on Interior (Chairman).
- Standing Committee on Petroleum and Natural Resources.
- Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Kashmir Affairs and Northern Areas.
- Functional Committee on Government Assurances.

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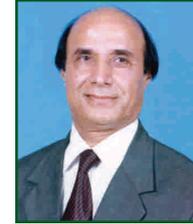
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Senator Sardar M. Latif Khan Khosa
(PPPP - Punjab)
Member

Senator Sardar Muhammad Latif Khan Khosa is one of the country's leading lawyers who has actively defended constitutional and political cases of his party leadership. He was President of the High Court Bar Association thrice (1981-82, 1987-88, 1995-96), Member Pakistan Bar Council since 1995, Chairman Executive Committee P.B.C. (1995-96), Chairman Appeal Committee Punjab-1 (1996-2000) and Member Tribunal P.B.C. (1995-2000). He is a Life Member of the High Court Bars of Lahore, Multan and Rawalpindi. He is also Life Member of the Supreme Court Bar Association, and Chairman of Khosa Law Chambers. Senator Khosa has visited the USA, Canada, France, UK, China, Ireland, Dubai and Saudi Arabia. He is married with four sons and two daughters and enjoys cricket, debating and music.

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Senator Gulshan Saeed
(PML - Punjab)
Member

Senator Gulshan Saeed, Chairperson, Senate Standing Committee on Ports and Shipping, is a long-standing political activist and she runs an NGO called Roshan Pakistan. She was a member of the Punjab Social Welfare Board from 1998-2002. She has visited the UK, Thailand, Saudi Arabia, France, Holland and USA. Senator Gulshan Saeed is married with two sons and two daughters.

She is currently the Vice President of the Women's Wing of Pakistan Muslim League, and member of its General Council. She has held assignments of Punjab Social Welfare Board, Bait-ul-Mal Punjab and Chairman Zakat Committee Lahore.

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Senator Col (R) Syed Tahir Hussan Mashhadi
(MQM - Sindh)
Member

Education:

- BSC (Hons)
- PSC (Command and Staff Course Quetta)

Achievements:

- Ex-Chairman, District Karachi East.
- Ex-Town Nazim, Jamshed Town, Karachi.
- Columnist, Political Analyst, articles frequently appear in leading English language newspapers and periodicals.
- Retired Army Officer.

Membership of Senate Committees:

- Committee on Rules of Procedures and Privileges. **(Chairman Committee)**
- Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Kashmir Affairs and Northern Areas.
- Standing Committee on Culture, Sports and Youth Affairs and Tourism.
- Standing Committee on Education and Science and Technology.
- Standing Committee on Interior.

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Senator Saadia Abbasi
(PML-N - Punjab)
Member

Membership of the Senate Committees:

- Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Kashmir Affairs and Northern Areas.
- Standing Committee on Industries & Production and Special Initiatives.
- Standing Committee on Local Government and Rural Development.
- Standing Committee on Ports and Shipping.
- Standing Committee on Social Welfare and Special Education.

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Profiles of the Committee Officials





Mr. Iftikhar Ullah Babar
Secretary Committee

Mr. Iftikhar Ullah Babar is Additional Secretary at the Senate of Pakistan and is currently working with the Parliamentary Committees of the Senate.

Mr. Babar completed his Secondary School and Higher Secondary School from Burn Hall School Abbottabad and Abbottabad Public School respectively. He attended Edwardes College Peshawar for his Bachelor's Degree and University of Peshawar for a Master's Degree in Economics. He also holds a Master's Degree in Development Studies from the Institute of Social Studies (ISS) in The Hague, The Netherlands.

Mr. Babar attended the 13th Advance Management and Development course at the National Institute of Public Administration (NIPA) Peshawar and the 76th National Management Course at the Pakistan Administrative Staff College (PASC) Lahore.

Mr. Babar has authored a number of research articles on wide ranging topics namely, the Eighth Constitutional Amendment, Research support to Parliamentarians, the Parliamentary Committee System in Pakistan and Parliament and Financial Control. He has written numerous reports for the Committees, which were presented in the Senate.

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Mr. Tayyab Siddiqui
Consultant
Ambassador (R)

Mr. Tayyab Siddiqui joined the Foreign Service of Pakistan in 1967 and served as Ambassador of Pakistan to Zimbabwe (1986-1990), with concurrent accreditation to Zambia, Botswana and Namibia; to Indonesia (1992-1996), with concurrent accreditation to Papua New Guinea; to Egypt (1997-1999); and to Switzerland (1999-2003), and also to the Holy See and Liechtenstein.

In a 35 - year career as a diplomat, he also served in Pakistan missions in Amman, Beirut, Colombo, Berlin (GDR), Athens, Dhaka and Washington D.C. He was a member of Pakistan delegation to the UNGA for four years (1977-1980).

Ambassador Siddiqui is currently a regular analyst on international affairs with Radio Pakistan and PTV and other private channels. He is a regular contributor to English dailies - 'Dawn', 'The Nation' and 'The Post' on current international issues. He also contributes a regular column entitled "Harf-e-Haq" to the Urdu daily, 'Ausaf'. The selection of his columns was published in March, 2005.

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Muhammad Imtiaz
Private Secretary

Mr. Muhammad Imtiaz, Private Secretary, Senate Secretariat has been associated with the Senate Foreign Relations Committee since 1995. He holds Bachelors Degree in Arts with majors in Journalism and English (University of the Punjab - 2003) as well as a one year Diploma in Information Technology (Skill Development Council, Govt. of Pakistan - 2003). The main area of his activity is related to preparation of the reports of the Committee in the book form which involves proof reading, editing, acquiring certain information related to the report and finally designing, printing and dissemination of the report to various quarters in public and private sector. Additionally, the Senate Foreign Relations Committee website, which was developed under his supervision, is also administered and updated by him.

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Nasim Tahir
Research Intern

Ms. Nasim Tahir is working as an Intern at the office of Foreign Relation Committee of the Senate, Islamabad. She has an academic background with Bachelors in Arts with major in Journalism and Persian (2000-2002), Masters of Science with majors in Communication Sciences (2003-2005) from Fatima Jinnah University, Rawalpindi. Nasim's area of interest is Media Management and Print Media.

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Uroosh Amber
Research Intern

Ms. Uroosh Amber is working as an Intern at the office of Foreign Relation Committee of the Senate, Islamabad. She has an academic background with Bachelors in Arts with major in Statistics and Economics (2000-2002), Masters of Science with majors in International Relations (2003-2005) from Quaid-e-Azam University, Islamabad.

Uroosh's area of interest is South Asia, and foreign policy related issues of Pakistan. Before her affiliation with Foreign Relation Committee, she completed her course work for M.Phil. from University of Peshawar. Her M.Phil. Research topic was, "Indo-US nuclear relations - implications for Pakistan".

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About the Hanns Seidel Foundation

The Hanns Seidel Foundation (HSF) is a non-profit organization established in 1967 with its headquarters in Munich. Its activities, financed by the Federal Republic of Germany, by the Free State of Bavaria, and by private donations, are organized through four main departments, the Academy for Politics and Current Affairs, the Institute for Adult Civic Education, the Scholarship organization and the Institute for International Contact and Cooperation.

In accordance with the overall mission statement of the HSF, the Institute for International Contact and Cooperation is working in the service of peace, democracy and development with projects in currently 60 countries of Asia, Africa, Latin America and Eastern Europe. In Pakistan the HSF has established and supported Technical Training Centers in the province of Balochistan from 1983 to 1999. Since 1993, when an office of the HSF was opened in Islamabad, its activities have included technical support and staff training for the Secretariats of both houses of the Parliament and cooperation with a number of Institutes, Think Tanks and University Departments, all of which are doing research mainly on issues of current international and regional politics. HSF has assisted in the organization of hundreds of public seminars with its partners in Pakistan, as well as non-public dialogue forums on foreign policy and security matters with experts from neighbouring and European countries.

The HSF is pleased to be associated with the production of [Report No. 19: "Towards an Asian Century - Preparatory Meeting for the 5th General Assembly of the International Conference of Asian Political Parties"](#), under the auspices of Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

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SENATE OF PAKISTAN

Foreign Relations Committee

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