

SEOUL DECLARATION
OF
THE INAUGURAL CONGRESS OF THE ASSOCIATION OF ASIAN CONSTITUTIONAL COURTS
AND EQUIVALENT INSTITUTIONS

Seoul, Republic of Korea, May 22, 2012

1. We, the Presidents and Heads of members of the Association of Asian Constitutional Courts and Equivalent Institutions (AACC), held the Inaugural Congress in Seoul, Republic of Korea from May 21 to 22, 2012 under the main theme "Present and Future of Constitutional Justice in Asia."

2. The Congress, attended by delegations of constitutional courts and equivalent institutions and regional or language based groups of constitutional courts/institutions in the capacity as members and observers as well as guests of the AACC, offered us a vital opportunity to review the status quo and explore the future of constitutional justice in Asia through exchanges and cooperation by sharing each others' experiences and wisdom on constitutional law and constitutional justice.

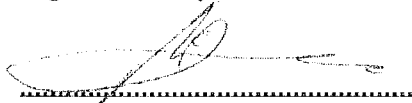
3. We reaffirmed that the constitutional adjudication system, originally designed to implement ideas and values of the Constitution and safeguard the freedom and rights of the people, not only contributes to the advancement of democracy and the rule of law but also serves as a valuable means to bring together and integrate society and nation by upholding the Constitution and mediating social conflicts.

4. Recalling the Statute of the AACC finalized at the Third Meeting of the Preparatory Committee for the Establishment of the Association of Asian Constitutional Courts on April 8, 2010 and the Jakarta Declaration on the Establishment of Asian Constitutional Courts and Equivalent Institutions adopted at the Final Preparatory Committee Meeting in Jakarta, Indonesia on July 12, 2010, we declare as follows:

· We commit to sharing experiences and wisdom as well as exchanging information on constitutional law and justice with a view to broadening our understanding of different constitutional adjudication systems in Asian countries and working together toward the development of democracy, the rule of law and promotion of human rights and freedom in Asia.

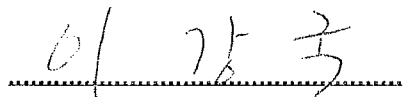
- We encourage more Asian institutions exercising constitutional jurisdiction to join the AACC to expand cooperation and commit to cooperating with each other in exploring a new, creative system and standards for constitutional justice that accord with the history, culture and traditional values of Asia as well as the spirit of our times and historical trajectory of development.
- We pledge to make every effort, by promoting exchange of human and non-human resources with constitutional courts and equivalent institutions or groups of such courts/institutions across the world, to ensure that all human beings are guaranteed their human dignity and worth and are able to pursue happiness in freedom and peace.
- Appreciating the efforts of the Constitutional Court of Korea for hosting the historic Inaugural Congress of the AACC, we agree that the Constitutional Court of Turkey holds the 2nd Congress within the next two years.

Signed on May 22, 2012 in Seoul, Republic of Korea by:



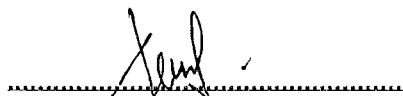
Harjono

Justice of the Constitutional Court of the Republic of Indonesia



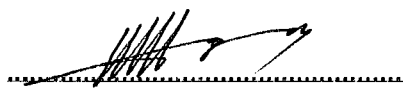
Kang-Kook LEE

President of the Constitutional Court of the Republic of Korea




Abu Samah NORDIN

Judge of the Court of Appeal of Malaysia



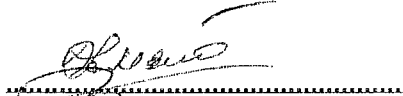
Navaanperenlei JANTSAN

Acting Chairman of the Constitutional Court of Mongolia



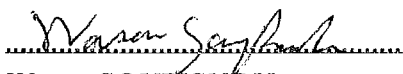
Valery ZORKIN

President of the Constitutional Court of the Russian Federation



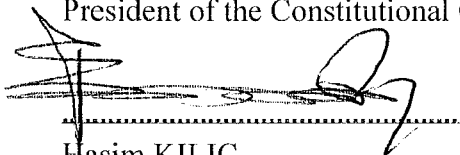
Karim KARIMOV

Justice of the Constitutional Court of the Republic of Tajikistan



Wasan SOYPISUDH

President of the Constitutional Court of the Kingdom of Thailand



Haşim KILIÇ

President of the Constitutional Court of the Republic of Turkey



Bakhtiyar MIRBABAEV

Acting Chairman of the Constitutional Court of the Republic of Uzbekistan