

2024 AACC ANNUAL REPORT



PREPARED BY

**THE PERMANENT SECRETARIAT FOR
PLANNING AND COORDINATION (SPC)**

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Table of Contents



<u>Introduction</u>	1
<u>Compilation of AACC Member Activities</u>	2
<u>Compiling of AACC Statute into a Single Document</u>	2
<u>Meeting with the AACC President's Secretariat (Thailand)</u>	3
<u>Strengthening Cooperation with African Constitutional Courts</u>	4
<u>Publication of AACC Newsletter Volume 4 & Volume 5</u>	5
<u>Meeting of the Three AACC Secretariats</u>	6
<u>Meeting of Secretaries General of AACC</u>	7
<u>AACC 6th Congress and Board of Members Meeting (BoMM)</u>	8
<u>MoU with CIJC (Ibero-American Constitutional Justice Association)</u>	10
<u>AACC SRD Visit to SPC Jakarta</u>	11
<u>AACC LO Meeting</u>	12
<u>AACC Membership Additions</u>	13
<u>AACC Website Updates</u>	14
<u>Closing</u>	15





Introduction

The Association of Asian Constitutional Courts and Equivalent Institutions (AACC) is a regional organization consisting of constitutional courts and similar institutions across Asia. Its primary goal is to strengthen the rule of law, human rights protection, and democratic principles in Asia by facilitating cooperation among constitutional courts and equivalent institutions in the Asia region.

The AACC has three Permanent Secretariats, each responsible for different functions and programs : the Secretariat for Planning and Coordination (SPC) in Indonesia, the Secretariat for Research and Development (SRD) in Korea, and the Center for Training and Human Resources Development (CTHRD) in Türkiye. The Permanent Secretariat for Planning and Coordination (SPC) is managed by the Constitutional Court of the Republic of Indonesia. According to the AACC Statute, the functions of SPC include:

- Providing administrative support to the Association and its members.
- Supporting and promoting AACC's relations with other international organizations, forums, and external parties.
- Coordinating the development and exchange of human resources, including scholarships and internships, while excluding activities under the Center for Training and Human Resources Development (CTHRD).
- Planning and coordinating financial matters related to the Association's activities.

In fulfilling its duties and functions to advance the AACC, SPC has successfully carried out its activities for the year of 2024. This report outlines the activities conducted by SPC from January to December 2024, highlighting its efforts to strengthen cooperation among member countries and expand networks regionally and globally. It provides a comprehensive overview of SPC's achievements and strategic initiatives to maintain regional and international cooperation in constitutional and judicial matters in Asia and beyond.

With sincere appreciation,

**THE PERMANENT SECRETARIAT FOR PLANNING AND COORDINATION
CONSTITUTIONAL COURT OF THE REPUBLIC OF INDONESIA**

Compilation of AACC Member Activities

SPC actively compiles the international event schedules of all AACC member countries. Key events such as symposia, conferences, and workshops organized by AACC member countries throughout January–December 2024 include:

No.	Event	Organizer	Location & Date
1	Opening Legal Year 2024	Federal Court of Malaysia	Putrajaya, 15 January 2024
2	Conference on Technology and Judicial Dialogue	Supreme Court of India	India, 13-14 April 2024
3	4th Research Conference of AACC SRD	Constitutional Court of Korea	Seoul, 27-30 May 2024
4	The XII St. Petersburg International Legal Forum	Constitutional Court of the Russian Federation	St. Petersburg, 26-28 June 2024
5	Meeting of Secretaries General (MSG) 2024	Constitutional Court of Indonesia	5 September 2024 (online)
6	The 6th Congress of AACC	Constitutional Court of Thailand	Bangkok, 17-21 September 2024
7	12th International Summer School - Center for Training and Human Resources Development	Constitutional Court of Türkiye	30 September – 3 October 2024
8	AACC Liaison Officers Meeting	Constitutional Court of Indonesia	19 November 2024

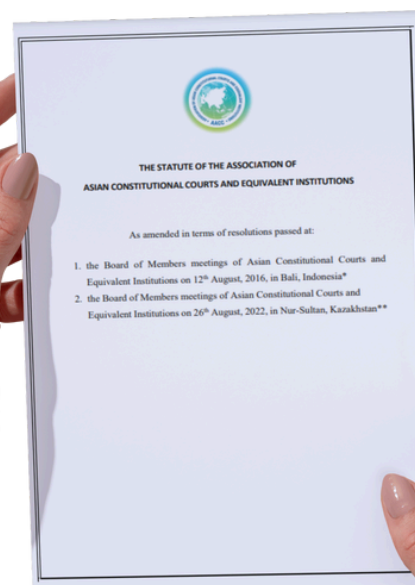
COMPILING OF AACC STATUTE INTO A SINGLE DOCUMENT

SPC successfully compiled and consolidated the AACC Statute into a single comprehensive document, following the mandate from the Board of Members Meeting (BoMM) in Mongolia.

This document was translated into English and Russian as The Constitutional Court of Russia contributed to the Russian translation. The finalized AACC Statute was approved at the AACC BoMM in Bangkok and it is published yet accessible on the official AACC website.

The Statute of the AACC

DOWNLOAD



MEETING WITH THE AACC PRESIDENT'S SECRETARIAT (THAILAND)

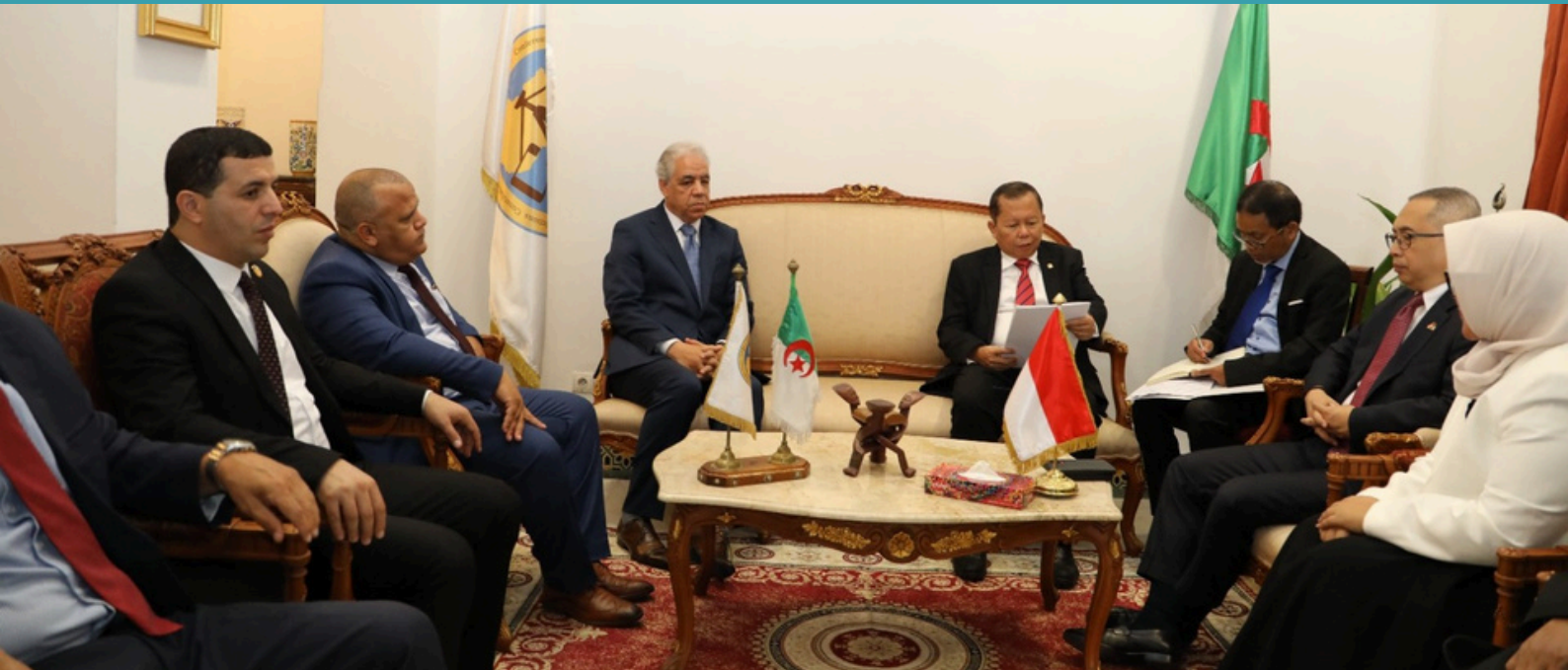
In March 2024, SPC held an online meeting with the AACC President's Secretariat, the Constitutional Court of Thailand, in regards to discuss preparations for the World Conference on Constitutional Justice (WCCJ) Bureau Meeting in Venice, Italy. The meeting purpose were to discusse pertaining the preparation for the AACC President's role in the WCCJ Bureau Meeting as well as providing input on constitutional issues, including regional tensions in Asia, Eastern Europe, and the Middle East.



Virtual Meeting with Thailand's Constitutional Court via Zoom

STRENGTHENING COOPERATION WITH AFRICAN CONSTITUTIONAL COURTS

On June 23, 2024, SPC met with the Secretary-General of the Permanent Secretariat of the Conference of Constitutional Jurisdiction of Africa (CCJA), Mr. Moussa Laraba in Algeria in order to discuss about the preparations for the 2nd AACC-CCJA Congress that will be held in 2025. As mentioned in the Joint Statement of AACC-CCJA in 2022, that the 2nd Joint Conference of AACC-CCJA will be held in a member country of CCJA, thus the Secretariat of CCJA informed that the constitutional Court of Angola was identified as a potential host country for the congress. The meeting also discussed some additional opportunities for cooperation between AACC and CCJA.



SPC was represented by Constitutional Justice Arsul Sani, who visited the CCJA Secretariat in Algeria.

Publication of AACC Newsletter Volume 4 & Volume 5

SPC successfully published AACC Newsletter Vol. 4 (June 2024) and Vol. 5 (December 2024), featuring highlights from AACC member countries. These newsletters presents a summary of activities from 20 AACC member countries starting from June 2023 to June 2024 for Newsletter Volume 4 and a summary of activities from July to December 2024 for Newsletter Volume 5.

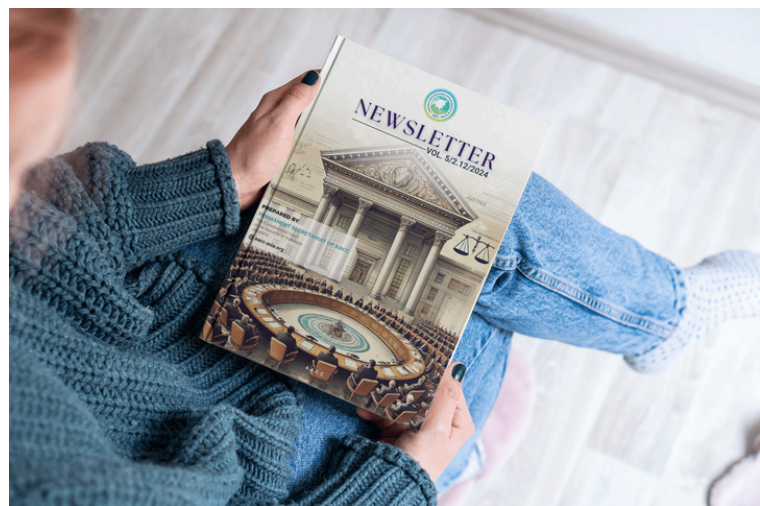


AACC Newsletter Vol 4/1.6/2024

In this edition of Newsletter volume 4, there is also a special column named "Update From Africa" which provides the latest information regarding the South African judicial body as one of the members of the African Constitutional Courts Association which has just had a female judge for the first time. In addition, several AACC member countries, namely Bangladesh and Indonesia also provide information regarding their latest decisions which are considered as a monumental decision. Meanwhile, the Constitutional Court of Kazakhstan provides information regarding the publication of their Law in Braille. With this Newsletter, it is hoped that it can strengthen communication and collaboration between AACC members and strengthen the sense of ownership of the AACC all from member countries.

Further along in December 2024, the SPC published the AACC Newsletter Volume 5. That contain a summary of activities from 20 AACC member countries starting from July-December 2024. In this edition, there is a special column called "Update from fellow Associations" which provides the latest information regarding the working partners of AACC's similar associations, namely the European Constitutional Court Association (CECC), the Spanish-speaking Constitutional Court Association (CIJC), and the African Constitutional Court Association (CJCA).

The enthusiasm and attention from AACC members for the publication of Newsletter Volume 5 is also greater than in the publication of previous newsletters. India, Korea, Malaysia, and Turkey, for example, specifically requested the SPC to include several news items related to activities held by their Courts as well as news regarding their court decisions which considered important and may represent the current state of their institutions.



AACC Newsletter Vol 5/2.12/2024

MEETING OF THE THREE AACC SECRETARIATS



On Friday, August 8, 2024, representatives from the three permanent secretariats of the AACC, namely the Planning and Coordination Secretariat (SPC) Indonesia, the Research and Development Secretariat (SRD) Korea, and the Human Resources Training and Development Center (CTHRD) Turkey, together with the Presidential Secretariat of the Constitutional Court of Thailand held an online meeting via Zoom.

The meeting aimed to synchronize work plans, discuss collaboration strategies, and prepare strategic agendas, such as the 6th Congress and the AACC Board of Members Meeting (BoMM). Several other important topics discussed included the update of the SRD yearbook with the theme "Constitutional Rights and the Environment," the preparation of the Summer School Program by the CTHRD Turkey with the theme "The Use of Information Technology and AI in Justice," and strategic issues related to financial contributions and the expansion of AACC membership.

The meeting was held collaboratively with each secretariat sharing updates and inputs, reflecting a shared commitment to strengthening the constitutional law network in the Asian region and building relationships with other international associations such as the CCJA and CECC. This discussion is an important step in aligning the strategic objectives of the AACC and supporting the sustainability of inter-institutional cooperation.



Heru Setiawan, as the Head of the Permanent Secretariat of AACC, represented the SPC during the Meeting of Secretaries General of AACC 2024.

Meeting of Secretaries General of AACC

Based on the mandate letter Number 0015.1/1323 dated 15 August 2024 from the President of AACC H.E. Mektrairat received by the SPC on 16 August 2024 regarding the request to hold the MSG online as part of the series of the 6th AACC Congress and Board of Members Meeting (BoMM), on 5 September 2024, the SPC held the Meeting of Secretaries General of AACC 2024 which was held online, chaired by the Secretary General of the Constitutional Court of Thailand, who also acted as the Head of Host Secretariat / Secretariat of the President of AACC. This activity aims to prepare for the 6th AACC Congress held in Bangkok, as well as to strengthen coordination between the Secretaries General of the Constitutional Courts of AACC member countries.

This meeting was attended by 14 AACC member countries, including Azerbaijan, Indonesia, Malaysia, India, Palestine, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, Myanmar, Philippines, Russia, Thailand, Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan. The MSG discussed a number of strategic issues, including the proposal to activate the annual membership fee of AACC to strengthen the financial independence of the organization, plans for cooperation with regional associations such as CCJA and CECC, discussion of the draft Bangkok Declaration, and the submission of reports from the three permanent secretariats of AACC. The meeting produced several strategic recommendations to be discussed further in the Board of Members Meeting (BoMM).





THE 6TH CONGRESS AND BOARD OF MEMBERS MEETING (BOMM) OF AACC

As the primary activity of the association, ensuring the success of the Congress and BoMM is one of the SPC's main responsibilities. In this regard, the SPC extends its full support to the Constitutional Court of the Kingdom of Thailand, which currently holds the presidency of the AACC, to ensure the smooth and proper execution of this monumental AACC event. The theme of the AACC 6th Congress 2024 was “Constitutional Courts and Equivalent Institutions in Strengthening Constitutional Justice for a Sustainable Society.” Hosted by the Constitutional Court of the Kingdom of Thailand, which is serving as the AACC President for the 2023-2025 term. The congress was held in Bangkok, Thailand, from September 18 to 19, 2024.

The 6th Congress of the AACC was officially opened on Wednesday, September 18, 2024, by Thailand's King's Counsel, Atthaniti Disatha-amnarj. The event was attended by representatives from fifteen member states as well as three guest delegations, including the Venice Commission, the African Association of Constitutional Courts, and the Association of Spanish-Speaking Constitutional Courts.

The BoMM took place on September 18, 2024, and covered several important issues, including the organization's finances, presidential succession, reports from the Permanent Secretariats, and the finalization of the Bangkok Declaration. One of the key agenda items was the discussion on the organization's finances. The SPC was tasked by the AACC President to conduct further study on the possibility of activating the organization's financial contributions and reporting back at the next BoMM.



An important part of the BoMM in Thailand was the finalization of the Bangkok Declaration.

Three key proposals were discussed for inclusion in the draft declaration:

- Cooperation, proposed by the Constitutional Court of Kazakhstan;
- A climate change conference, proposed by the Constitutional Court of Azerbaijan; and
- AACC's support for the Palestinian people.

At the finalization of the BoMM held on September 19, 2024, it was also agreed to elect the Constitutional Court of Uzbekistan as the President of the AACC for the period 2025-2027 and the Supreme Court of the Philippines for the period 2027-2029. The SPC continuously coordinated with the Constitutional Court of Thailand as the AACC President's Secretariat, providing assistance and preparing all necessary inputs, including advice, administrative provisions, and infrastructure to ensure the success of the mandatory and core activities of the AACC.

MOU WITH CIJC (IBERO-AMERICAN CONSTITUTIONAL JUSTICE ASSOCIATION)

In the context of inter-associations cooperation, the SPC has been actively engaging in communication with the secretariats of similar associations, with the goal of establishing closer and mutually beneficial relationships. One such effort involves communication with the Ibero-American Conference of Constitutional Justice (CIJC), which has been in existence since 2021. In 2024, the SPC received a request from the CIJC to explore potential cooperation. This collaboration between the AACC and CIJC was formalized through the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) during the 6th Congress of the AACC in Bangkok on September 19, 2024.



Signing of the MoU between AACC and CIJC

AACC SRD VISIT TO SPC JAKARTA

On November 6-7, 2024, the AACC SRD (Secretariat for Research and Development) based in Seoul, Korea, and managed by the Constitutional Court of Korea visited the SPC in Jakarta to conduct a coordination meeting aimed at strengthening the synergy between the SPC and SRD. The SRD working visit was represented by Mr. Hyungsoo Kim (Deputy Director) and Mr. Ilho Kim (Assistant Director), who visited the AACC SPC Office in Jakarta.

During the visit, meetings and discussions were held to review the activities undertaken or being prepared by both Secretariats. In addition to coordinating ongoing activities, the visit also addressed topics such as the management of financial contributions from members, the themes of international activities, and the expansion plans for AACC members. The discussions also touched on innovations in research programs and conferences, as well as reflections on the 10th anniversary of the establishment of the three AACC Secretariats (SPC, SRD, CTHRD). Both parties agreed to continue developing global networks and deepening synergies in the management of the AACC organization.





AACC LO MEETING

On November 19, 2024, the SPC organized an online meeting for Liaison Officers of AACC member countries. The meeting underscored the crucial role of Liaison Officers in strengthening communication and coordination among AACC members, ultimately supporting the sustainability of AACC activities.



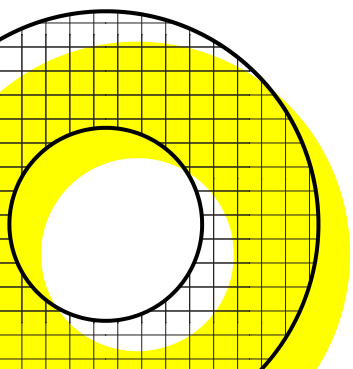
The Head of SPC, Heru Setiawan, giving his remarks for the opening of LO meeting

The meeting focused on two primary agenda items such as the submission of financial contribution procedures and the preparation of themes for the AACC International Short Course in 2025. Participation from various countries, including Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Thailand, and Malaysia, India, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, and the Philippines highlighted the diversity of perspectives, enriching the discussion and fostering valuable insights.

At the conclusion of the meeting, the SPC expressed its gratitude for the contributions of all participants. The outcomes of the discussions during the Liaison Officers Meeting will be presented at the upcoming Board of Members Meeting (BoMM).



AACC Liaison Officers





AACC Membership Additions

In terms of membership development, the SPC has received an official letter from the Constitutional Court of the Russian Federation via email regarding the interest of the Federal Supreme Court of Iraq in joining the AACC as a new member.

On December 4, 2024, the SPC received a formal request letter from the Chief Justice of the Federal Supreme Court of Iraq, H.E. Jassim Mohammed Abboud, addressed to all AACC member states. The letter expressed Iraq's desire to join the AACC as a member, accompanied by supporting documents such as legal regulations establishing their authority and a statement of willingness to comply with the AACC statutes. In response to this request, the AACC SPC wrote to the AACC President, H.E. Nakharin Mektrairat, seeking further guidance and emphasizing the potential benefits of Iraq's membership, including its contribution to strengthening constitutional discussions and legal cooperation in the Asian region. In reply, the AACC President mandated that Iraq's application be circulated to all AACC members and instructed the SPC to gather input from the members before a final decision is made.

Following this, the AACC SPC sent out a circular letter to all AACC members. The letter provided details about Iraq's membership application and requested each member to submit a formal response. The SPC will compile the responses and report them to the AACC President to decide on the next steps.

Additionally, to further expand AACC membership, the SPC is planning to approach several potential Southeast Asian countries to join AACC. These efforts have focused on promoting information exchange, sharing decisions, and offering training to enhance institutional capacity. Furthermore, the SPC has also encouraged AACC members to reach out to their counterparts to expand the network. To support this, the SPC has prepared a membership proposal available on the AACC website.

The SPC is also actively enhancing the visibility of the AACC within the international community by creating and sharing content about the Association and its activities through the Hi MK section on the Indonesian Constitutional Court's official Instagram account. This initiative aims to engage a broader audience and raise awareness of AACC's role in promoting constitutional justice and legal cooperation while also showcasing the Association's ongoing work and events. The content shared on this platform highlights AACC's initiatives, fosters connections with global stakeholders, and provides updates on its activities to a wider audience.

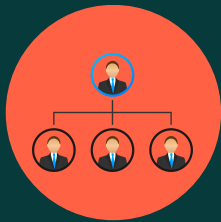
AACC WEBSITE UPDATES

The SPC consistently updates the aacc-asia.org website to ensure that all information remains current and accessible to the public. These updates include:



1. Liaison Officers Updates

Regular updates to the contact information of the Liaison Officers from all AACC member countries. This ensures that all members are aware of the latest contacts for smooth communication.



2. Changes in the Composition of Justices and the Secretary General

Updates related to changes in the composition of judges and the Secretary General of the Constitutional Courts of all AACC member countries. These updates are crucial for maintaining accurate and timely communication across the AACC network.



3. Inclusion of Member Activities and AACC Events

Details of various activities undertaken by AACC members and important AACC events, including those held during 2024, are added to the AACC calendar of activities. This allows for better coordination and planning within the AACC community, ensuring that all members are informed of upcoming events and developments.

By regularly updating the website with such key information, the SPC ensures the website remains a reliable and useful resource for all AACC members and other stakeholders.

CLOSING

The performance of the AACC Secretariat for Planning and Coordination during 2024 can be categorized into 4 categories of activities: carrying out the planning and coordination tasks of the Permanent Secretariat to the AACC President and members, expanding AACC membership, updating and maintaining AACC website, and expanding as well as maintaining Cooperation with other similar associations.

In the field of planning and coordination with the President and other AACC members, the SPC has done some activities such as preparing the AACC President for the WCCJ bureau meeting in Venice-Italy, compiling the international event schedules of all AACC member countries, ensuring the success of the 6th Congress and BoMM of AACC, and initiating the MSG as well as Liaison Officers Meeting.

As for in the field of expanding AACC membership, the SPC has following up the request from Iraq's Federal Supreme court for their interest to join the AACC as well as approaching several Southeast Asian countries with potential to become AACC members.

The SPC consistently updates and maintaining the aacc-asia.org website to ensure that all information remains current and accessible to the public nevertheless fits with the needs of Association.

In the aspect of organizing Cooperation with other similar associations, the SPC in the purpose of inter-associations cooperation, the SPC has been actively engaging in communication with the secretariats of similar associations, such as strengthening cooperation with African Constitutional Courts (CCJA) establishing communication with the Ibero-American Conference of Constitutional Justice (CIJC) that resulted on the signing of the MoU between Associations last September in Bangkok-Thailand.

Overall, the SPC has successfully accomplished its primary tasks in 2024. All activities have demonstrated significant improvement in coordination, communication, and the development of cooperation among AACC members and other international institutions.

We would like to express our deepest appreciation to all AACC members for their invaluable cooperation and support, which have significantly contributed to the successful and the optimal implementation of the SPC functions in 2024.



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