

# **Opening Remarks**

**by**

**President Yoo Namseok of  
Constitutional Court of Korea**

on the occasion of

4th International Symposium of

AACC Secretariat for Research and Development

May 30, 2023

Honorable heads of AACC members,

Justices and delegates,

Distinguished guests,

On behalf of the Constitutional Court of Korea, I would like to extend my sincere gratitude and warm greetings to all of you who have visited Korea for attending the *4th International Symposium of the AACC Secretariat for Research and Development (AACC SRD)*.

This International Symposium holds even greater meaning as it marks our return to an in-person conference in four years after successfully overcoming the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic. The fact that 15 AACC members made the effort to attend this symposium despite the long journey speaks to the joy of reunion that we all shared, including myself.

Since its establishment in 2010, the AACC has significantly grown in number and substance over the past 13 years. The number of members has increased threefold from 7 to 21. The three permanent secretariats, established to provide systematic support for regular exchanges and cooperation among member institutions, have now become well-established and are effectively performing their roles.

Now, we can safely say that the AACC has positioned itself as a successful regional association of constitutional review bodies.

Undoubtedly, our shared goals of ensuring human rights and democracy and promoting the rule of law through constitutional adjudication require consistent and long-term efforts.

The Constitutional Court of Korea is committed to supporting the Association's journey of learning from each

other's experience and sharing insights among member institutions, and advancing towards our shared goals through its AACC SRD activities.

The topic of this International Symposium held as part of this effort is *Access to Justice: Constitutional Perspectives*. 'Access to Justice' is directly linked to our Association's goals of ensuring human rights and the rule of law, and is a necessary precondition for achieving it.

In this two-day Symposium, participants will be invited to have in-depth discussions on the themes of the sessions, which include *individual access to constitutional justice*, *current issues on access to justice*, and *constitutional rights ensuring access to justice*. The outcomes of the discussions will surely be reflected in our annual research book, scheduled for publication at the end of this year.

*Ensuring equal access to justice for promoting the rule of law* is a topic of consistent discussion to achieve sustainable development in the global community, but there has not been a long history of study on this issue.

In this context, the outcomes of the joint study by Asian constitutional review bodies is invaluable to say the least.

This year's Symposium is graced with the presence of the Constitutional Court of Algeria and the Supreme Court of New Zealand as special guests.

I am confident that our research will benefit from a broader perspective that extends beyond Asia and enable us to further deepen our thinking. I would like to extend my genuine welcome and gratitude to all of you for your remarkable effort.

Distinguished delegates,

This year marks the 35th anniversary of the Constitutional Court of Korea.

From just 39 cases in its first year of 1988, the annual caseload has steeply increased, and today we handle around 3,000 cases per year. The accumulated caseload is projected to reach over 50,000 by the end of this year.

Living up to this trust and expectation, our Court is dedicated to being a solid guardian in safeguarding citizens' fundamental rights while striving to get closer to the public.

I am particularly honored to welcome our esteemed guests to our Court in such a meaningful year. I am glad to welcome you again during our scheduled visit to the Court building after today's sessions.

Reiterating my gratitude to all participants, I hope that this

Symposium will serve as a productive platform of exchange where we could share insights as well as friendship.

Thank you.