

Opening Remarks

by

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

on the occasion of

3rd International Symposium of
AACC Secretariat for Research and
Development

November 10, 2021

Honorable Mr. Chinbat Namjil, President of the AACC,
Mr. Gianni Buquicchio, President of the Venice
Commission,

Dear Delegates of AACC member institutions,

Distinguished Guests,

On behalf of the Constitutional Court of the Republic of Korea, it is with great pleasure and gratitude to welcome you to the 3rd International Symposium of the AACC Secretariat for Research and Development (the AACC SRD).

Since its launch in 2017, the AACC SRD has been holding either a justice-level or a researcher-level international conference every year in a bid to contribute to our Association's goal of advancing democracy, guaranteeing human rights and implementing the rule of law in Asia.

It is regrettable that this year's conference is once again held online following last year due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Although we are not able to meet in person this year, thanks to all of you here who, despite this meeting being held in an unfamiliar setting, have taken your precious time to prepare your presentation and participate in this event, I am confident that this conference will become an important platform for wide-ranging and in-depth discussions and exchanges.

The topic of this year's Symposium is *Constitutional Rights and AACC Members*. In the first session, we will look at both various aspects of fundamental rights and common values protected by constitutions and constitutional adjudication. While fundamental rights provisions in Asian constitutions vary from country to country depending on their traditions and cultures, it is of utmost importance for us to come together and explore and confirm the universal human values inherent

in them. This, I believe, will lay the basic foundation for AACC members to mobilize collective efforts towards the equal guarantee of human rights in Asia, such as exploring the possibility of establishing common rights standards.

The world in the 21st century is faced with rapid and far-ranging changes such as the advancement of information and communications technology, social and economic polarization, and climate change. The second session will explore how constitutional review bodies as the ultimate guardian of fundamental rights can effectively respond to new challenges posed by the global changes in modern society and unprecedented crises like the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

The last session will focus on the universality of human rights and allow you to engage in an in-depth discussion on how the relationship between international human rights norms and constitutional rights is interpreted in

constitutional proceedings.

This International Symposium has a practical significance since most of us here are fulfilling our roles and responsibilities for an institution that performs constitutional adjudication in our respective countries. Moreover, all of us here gathered from across borders are companions sharing this tough journey towards achieving universal human values, establishing a democracy based on the rule of law, and advancing human rights. I hope that this Symposium will provide us with a unique opportunity to share experiences and wisdom and build a special friendship with each other.

Before closing, I would like to express my heartfelt thanks to delegates of AACC member institutions for joining us in this meaningful event; and to President Chinbat Namjil of the AACC and President Gianni Buquicchio of the Venice Commission for gracing this

occasion with their presence despite their tight schedule. My special thanks also go to Secretary General Chaowana Traimas of the Constitutional Court of the Kingdom of Thailand and Secretary General Abdumannob Rakhimov of Constitutional Court of the Republic of Uzbekistan, who have always supported our work at the Secretariat as the Deputy Secretary Generals of the AACC SRD. Lastly, my particular appreciation goes to Professor Maartje De Visser of Singapore Management University for preparing a thematic presentation from a comparative law perspective.

I would like to bring my remarks to a close by offering you once again my warmest welcome to the 3rd International Symposium.

Thank you.