

Congratulatory Remarks

by

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

on the occasion of
3rd Research Conference of
AACC Secretariat for Research and
Development

June 15, 2022

Dear delegates of AACC members and special guests,

As the President of the Constitutional Court of the Republic of Korea, I would like to extend my sincere welcome and gratitude to all of you joining us at the 3rd Research Conference of the AACC Secretariat for Research and Development (the AACC SRD).

The topic of this Conference is “the right to life,” which is also the topic of this year’s research project conducted by the AACC SRD. “Life” is called “Saengmyeong” in Korean. The word “Saengmyeong” does not only have its biological meaning, but is also used to describe “something crucially important.” Although each country calls “life” in their own languages differently, the importance of life must be a common value shared by all AACC member countries.

The right to life is one of the most essential basic rights which serves as the basis for all fundamental rights. This

conference which is held today and tomorrow will provide a common platform for sharing each members' experiences and knowledge on how the right to life is guaranteed by the Constitution and constitutional adjudication, and the State's constitutional duty to protect life. Particularly, the global pandemic of COVID-19 has highlighted the need for more thorough discussion concerning the State's obligation to protect a person's life. I hope this Conference will offer a forum for participants to engage in a substantial and frank discussion to exchange various viewpoints on "life" in the field of constitutional adjudication.

Also, the presentations of our special guests from the European Court of Human Rights and the University of Tsukuba will provide us a valuable opportunity to enrich our knowledge and widen our perspective. It will be a meaningful time to learn about the discussions in Europe and study some cases in Japan, our close neighbor, with regard to the right to life.

The International Symposium and the Research Conference regularly held by the AACC SRD not only make substantial contributions to our joint research, but also play a key role in building a tight-knit network among AACC members. I sincerely hope to meet face-to-face with delegates of all AACC members in Seoul and consolidate our friendship at the next International Symposium.

While extending my congratulations on today's meaningful meeting joined by some of the most prominent legal practitioners contributing to constitutional adjudication, I would like to renew my warm welcome to all of you.

Thank you.