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PRESS RELEASE

"It is our moral responsibility as political leaders to fight against poverty, the root cause of social plight and terrorism. The cooperation of political parties in the Asian region should start among political parties within each respective country. I am convinced that through this cooperation we can find solutions for the improvement of the living conditions of our peoples," said HRH Samdech Krom Preah Norodom Ranariddh, at the 2nd International Conference of Asian Political Parties (ICAPP), held in Bangkok from 22-24 November 2002.

In Cambodia, FUNCINPEC has sincerely worked in the spirit of cooperation to contribute to the building of peace, political stability, and development. FUNCINPEC has been fostering democracy and democratic institutions, by nurturing a political environment conducive to opened debates and freedom of speech and expression.

HRH Samdech Krom Preah also announced at the conference, the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding with Honorable Jose de Venecia Jr., Speaker of the House of Representatives of the Philippines, to work jointly for creating an ASEAN Parliament and an ASEAN Anti-Poverty Bank. The ASEAN Anti-Poverty Bank will function as a micro-financing institution to fund anti-poverty measures in South East Asia.

ICAPP was founded in September 2000 to initiate a process of building bridge and creating a cultural cooperation among Asian Political Parties.

Phnom Penh, 23 November 2002 