

A new role and a new scope for the Centrist Asia Pacific democrats international (CAPDI)

(General letter to CAPDI Leaders, Nov. 7, 2010)

Excellency, We are pleased to inform you that, following extensive consultations with our colleagues and member-parties, the *CDI Asia Pacific* is moving both to *deepen* and to *broaden* its *role* and its *scope* in Asia's fast-changing political and economic environment.

To signify its new aspirations, CDI Asia Pacific will now be renamed the *Centrist Asia Pacific Democrats International (CAPDI)*. It will be the first organization in the Asia Pacific, perhaps in the world, bringing together political parties and the key institutions of democratic civil society, people's organizations, think tanks, academe, eminent persons, business leaders, media, women and youth groups.

CDI Asia Pacific has been a limited associational *platform* for Asia's centrist political parties. Now CAPDI will strive for a larger function and outreach. It will become the *bridge* between the centrist political parties and the institutions of civil society in Asia and those in the Pacific Rim and invite members from more focussed organizations in the various regions and sectors of the international community.

These will include NGOs and people's organizations, think tanks, media and professional organizations. We will also be inviting into CAPDI public intellectuals, individual academics, and eminent persons and other individuals known in their fields of expertise.

CAPDI will mobilize mainstream moderates—whether political or non-political—to work for good governance and fight corruption, campaign for the alleviation of mass poverty and the empowerment of youths, women and minority groups. It will strive to protect human rights, promote democracy and join the various forces against climate change and ease the ill-effects of environmental degradation. CAPDI will support the U.N. Millennium Development Goals (MDG's), the Inter-Faith, Inter-Civilizational dialogues, and creative and practical initiatives of debt-relief for the 100 most heavily indebted developing nations. It will contribute its share to political and economic integration in Asia and the Pacific Rim.

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CAPDI will seek functional linkages with like-minded parties and groupings in Europe, North America, Latin America, the Middle East, Africa, Australia and Oceania and invite some of their leaders to join CAPDI as part of our networking program in the international community.

In an age where the power of public opinion is shaping perceptions, influencing policy and mobilizing millions of people worldwide, CAPDI seeks to provide a platform for the best that Asia Pacific can offer in the 21st Century, rightly dubbed as the "Asian Century".

CAPDI will be governed by an Executive Council led by a President-Chief Executive, Chairman, a Secretary General, International Treasurer, Senior Vice-President and Vice-Presidents, who are members of the Executive Council, and a corps of Executive Directors in charge of specific geographic regions and functional sectors. It will initially be headquartered in Manila for East Asia and in Islamabad for South and Central Asia. It will hold a General Assembly every other year unless convened earlier by the Executive Council, and functional conferences in between.

Eventually CAPDI will have its own Research Staff that will provide its member-organizations with occasional "State of Asia Pacific" Reports on their key interests and concerns.

As original co-founders and/or leaders of the former CDI Asia Pacific, we look forward to your joining us in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, 1 December 2010 from 9a.m. to 1p.m. for the inaugural meeting of CAPDI and its expanded Executive Council, to be followed by a luncheon hosted by the undersigned, H.E. Chairman Yussuf Kalla, former Vice President of the Republic of Indonesia, and H.E. Sok An, Deputy Premier and Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the Royal Government of Cambodia,

With best wishes. We look forward to seeing you again in Phnom Penh.